

DYNAMIC DUO



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) and Amare Stoudemire walk on the court during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Read Aruba Today Sports

Assange can be extradited



LONDON (AP) — Julian Assange can be extradited to Sweden in a sex crimes inquiry, a British judge ruled Thursday, rejecting claims by the WikiLeaks founder that he would not face a fair trial there. Assange's lawyer said he would appeal.

Continued on Page A2



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See Aruba Today Business pages B8&9



Final Frontier



Space shuttle Discovery lifts off from Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011. Discovery, on its last mission, will carry a crew of six astronauts to the Leonardo Permanent Multipurpose Module, or PMM, to the International Space Station.

Associated Press

WIKILEAKS

Continued from front Page

Judge Howard Riddle said the allegations of rape and sexual molestation by two women against Assange meet the definition of extraditable offenses and said the Swedish warrant had been properly issued and was valid. Assange, 39, a key figure in the release of tens of thousands of secret U.S. government and military documents, has been out on bail during the extradition fight. He has seven days to appeal the ruling in British courts. After hearing three days of testimony this month, Riddle concluded "there is simply no reason to believe there has been a mistake" about the European Arrest Warrant issued by Swedish authorities. In his ruling, the judge dismantled the defense case against extradition point by point. He rejected the claim that comments made against Assange by Swedish prosecutors and politicians would pervert the course of justice. □

Space shuttle Discovery's last launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time Thursday, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey that marks the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

The six astronauts on board, all experienced space fliers, were thrilled to be on their way after a delay of nearly four months for fuel tank repairs. But it puts Discovery on the cusp of retirement when it returns in 11 days and eventually heads to a museum.

Discovery is the oldest of NASA's three surviving space shuttles and the first to be decommissioned this year. Two missions remain, first by Atlantis and then Endeavour, to end the 30-year program. It was Discovery's 39th launch and the 133rd shuttle mission overall.

"Enjoy the ride," the test



Space shuttle Discovery lifts off from Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011. The crew of six astronauts are on an 11-day mission to the international space station.

Associated Press

conductor radioed just before liftoff. Commander Steven Lindsey thanked everyone for the work in getting Discovery ready to go: "And for those watching, get ready to witness

the majesty and the power of Discovery as she lifts off one final time."

Emotions ran high as Discovery rocketed off its seaside pad into a late

afternoon clear blue sky, and arced out over the Atlantic on its farewell flight. There were a tense few minutes before liftoff when an Air Force computer problem popped up. The issue was resolved and Discovery took off about three minutes late, with just a few seconds remaining in the countdown.

Discovery will reach the space station Saturday, delivering a small chamber full of supplies and an experimental humanoid robot. "Look forward to having company here on ISS in a couple days," station commander Scott Kelly said in a Twitter message.

The orbiting lab was soaring over the South Pacific when Discovery blasted off.

"Discovery now making one last reach for the stars," the Mission Control commentator said once the shuttle cleared the launch tower. □



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U.S. to join

Strong effort to boot Libya from U.N. body



WASHINGTON—The Obama administration will throw its weight behind a European effort to expel Libya from the U.N.'s top human rights body and name a special investigator to look into alleged atrocities committed by Moammar Gadhafi's

regime, U.S. officials said. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will help coordinate the larger international strategy to stop the violence in Libya she attends a U.N. Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva next week, the officials said.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the administration backs a European proposal for the 47-nation council to recommend Libya's expulsion. Officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss administration planning, also said the U.S. would support efforts to establish a U.N.-led probe into "gross and systematic violations of human rights by the Libyan authorities."

Council members were debating the resolution in Geneva, ahead of an emergency session Friday. Kicking out Libya would require two-thirds approval of all the 192 countries in the United Nations.

Hundreds are believed to have

been killed in Libya in recent days and Gadhafi's regime appears to have lost control of large parts of the country.

The administration also warned of a Libyan crackdown on foreign journalists to stifle news of the regime's violent

assaults on protesters.

In meetings with U.S. diplomats, Libyan officials said they would consider unregistered journalists as al-Qaida collaborators subject to immediate arrest, according to the State Department. □

'Deadliest Catch' crew found dead in motel

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A member of the hit cable TV show "Deadliest Catch" fishing crew has been found dead in an Alaska motel room, police said.

Justin Tennison, who worked on the Time Bandit, one of the vessels on the popular Discovery Channel reality series that depicts the crab fishing industry in the dangerous waters off Alaska, was found dead in Homer,

authorities said. Beer, hard liquor and a small amount of marijuana were found in the room, Homer police Lt. Randy Rosencrans said. Police believe a party was held in the room two rooms were registered under Tennison's name and nearby guests complained about the noise. The 33-year-old Tennison is set to make a posthumous debut in the series' seventh season, which is scheduled to begin in April, Discovery spokesman Josh Weinberg said.



"Justin was tough as a bull and was an all-around good hand," a statement posted on the Time Bandit's official website said.

Weinberg also released a statement, saying Discovery was saddened by the news.

"We send our sympathies to his entire family and fellow crew members during this most difficult time," the statement said.

TMZ previously reported that Tennison had died. □

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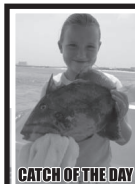
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Wis. man gets life



MILWAUKEE — A Milwaukee man convicted of killing seven women over a 21-year period was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.

Walter E. Ellis, 50, was convicted last week after he pleaded no contest to charges of first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree murder, which carry a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Judge Dennis Cimpl had the option of allowing the possibility of parole but declined. He sentenced Ellis to seven consecutive life sentences. The sentencing brings a close to a killing spree that began in 1986. The subsequent investigations eventually led to a complete review of how the state maintains its DNA database. □

Senate Dems consider spending cuts



WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are reviewing possible spending cuts in drafting a seven-month bill to keep the government in operation after existing funding expires on March 4, officials said the first time they have demonstrated a willingness to embrace immediate reductions.

These Democratic officials said about \$8.5 billion remaining from previously approved congressional earmarks may be reduced or eliminated, and Democratic aides also are reviewing President Barack Obama's

proposed program cuts and terminations for 2012 to see whether any should take effect immediately.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they are not authorized to discuss private deliberations.

The disclosure comes as the two parties maneuver for political position in advance of the March 4 deadline for legislation to keep the government in operation. The House passed legislation last week to extend funding authority through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year, including \$61 billion in

spending cuts and a blockade on selected federal regulations pending on private industries. Democrats responded quickly, accusing tea party-backed lawmakers and other Republicans of seeking a government shutdown, and proposing instead to keep programs operating at current levels. GOP leaders countered that the only advocates for a shutdown are among the

Democratic leadership in Congress.

The White House has threatened to veto the House measure, but has avoided accusations that Republicans want to shut the government down, emphasizing instead that the president wants to work with lawmakers in both parties in Congress to reduce federal deficits. □

In Montana

Tribes track 1st bison hunt in this century



GARDINER, Mont — Knee deep in snow, Francis Marsh crouched behind a boulder and peered through the rifle scope at his target 40 yards away. He breathed in deeply to calm his racing heart.

Picturesque mountain peaks rose behind him. The sunlight glittered off the snow, and all was quiet and still.

Ever so slowly, he exhaled, waited, and then pulled the trigger.

The bison dropped to its big belly. Francis gasped for air and with that shot became one of the first members of an Oregon Indian tribe to hunt buffalo in more than a century.

For years, Jim Marsh Francis' father had heard stories about his great-grandmother's buffalo-hide teepee, the last of its kind in their family. He'd seen photos of it, but buffalo were a thing of the past.

The Cayuse Indians once traveled hundreds of miles on horseback to hunt bison, a lean meat rich in protein and high in cultural significance. Those hunts ended in the late 1800s, as federal agents restricted travel from their reservation on the Columbia River plateau and the decimated bison herds were largely confined to Yellowstone National Park. □

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Boy Scouts knew of abuse



SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — A Texas teenager repeatedly molested by his scoutmaster filed a lawsuit alleging that the “dirty little secret” in the Boy Scouts of America is that it attracts molesters and hides this from scouts and parents. “From at least the 1960s, Defendants knew that predatory sexual abusers were registering as scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, and adult volunteers for the purpose of molesting and

otherwise harming scouts,” the lawsuit says. The victim, who is now 18 and filed the lawsuit under the fictitious name of “John Adams,” was molested by Scoutmaster James Hiatt in Converse, near San Antonio, in 2004 and 2005. Hiatt was convicted of two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child in 2008 and is now serving a prison term. “Abuse is - and always has been - unacceptable, and

the Boy Scouts of America extends its sympathies to the victims,” Deron Smith, a Boy Scouts of America spokesman, said in a written statement. “Recognizing that youth protection requires sustained vigilance, BSA was on the forefront of developing youth protection policies and continues to develop and enhance efforts to protect youth through clear policies, training of adult volunteers, and effective screening of volunteers.”

The lawsuit says that Hiatt became a “father figure” in the boy’s life at a time when his own father was absent.

Because of Boy Scouts of America’s “failure to educate John and his mother about the problem of sexual abuse in scouting, John’s mother mistook Hiatt’s predatory interest in her son as that of a caring fatherly affection,” the document says. □

Handcuffed burglar escapes in police car

LAS VEGAS— A 19-year-old Henderson, Nevada man arrested for burglary managed to drive off in a police car on Wednesday, despite wearing handcuffs, only to be nabbed on foot a few hours later.

The unidentified burglary suspect drove off in the police car while officers stood outside their Chevrolet Tahoe shortly after apprehending him on suspicion of attempting to break into a nearby home,



police spokesman Todd Rasmussen said.

While sitting in the back seat of the patrol car, the suspect managed to slide his handcuffed hands behind his back and scramble through a square-foot-wide opening in a plexiglass window separating the back from the driver’s seat. □

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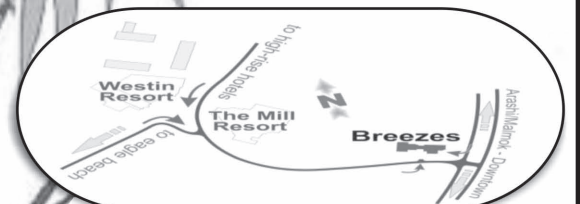
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USAF to award \$35 billion contract



WASHINGTON – After a decade of delays and embarrassing missteps, the Air Force is poised to award one of the biggest contracts in military history a \$35 billion deal to build nearly 200 giant airborne refueling tankers to either Chicago-based Boeing Co. or European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company. The decision will be announced at the Pentagon after the financial markets close and it is certain to set off celebrations in the states where the tanker will be manufactured.

If Boeing wins, production would occur in Everett, Wash., Wichita, Kan., and several other states. If EADS wins, the tanker would be assembled in Mobile, Ala., at a long-shuttered military base. The two companies say either way, some 50,000 jobs would be created in a recession-weary nation.

The losing states and their lawmakers will weigh any challenge to the decision.

Replacing the 1950s-era KC-135 planes the equivalent of a flying gas station is crucial for the military. Pilots who weren't even born when the last aircraft was delivered in 1965 are operating air tankers that the Pentagon is struggling to keep in flying shape.

The refueling tankers allow jet fighters, supply planes and other aircraft to cover long distances, critical with fewer overseas bases and operations far from the United States in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. □

Blagojevich corruption charges

Judge drops 3 of 23 charges

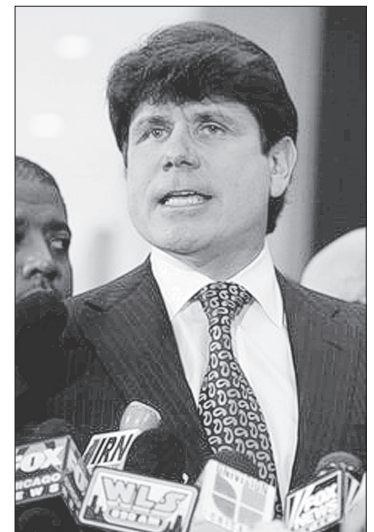
CHICAGO – A federal judge has dropped three of 23 corruption charges against ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Prosecutors requested the move in hopes of simplifying their case after jurors in Blagojevich's first trial said the original two dozen counts were confusing. Prosecutors say accusations contained in the dropped counts are duplicated elsewhere in the case. Defense attorney

Sheldon Sorosky said he had no objections to the request.

The 54-year-old Blagojevich faces an April retrial on charges he tried to sell or trade an appointment to President Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat and trying to shake down donors for campaign cash. Blagojevich still face years in prison if convicted on the remaining charges.

Jurors deadlocked on all but one count of lying to the FBI in his first trial. □



In Providence, Rhode Island

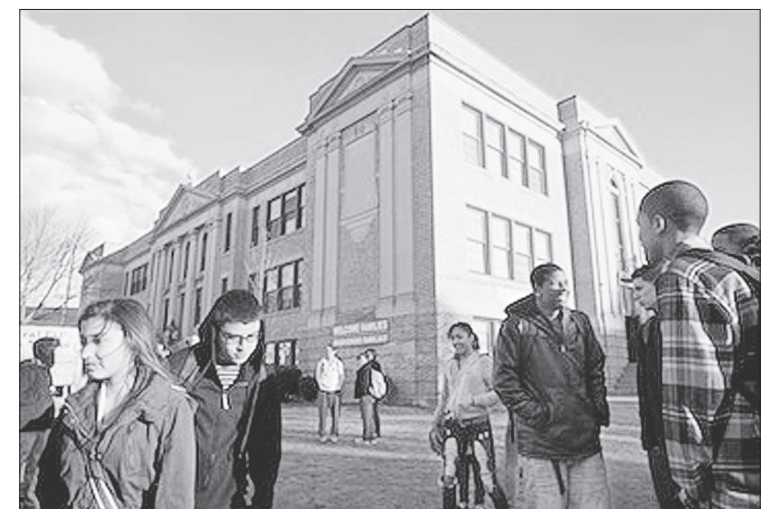
All 2,000 teachers told they could be fired

RHODE ISLAND - Mayor Angel Taveras is sending layoff warnings to all 1,926 of the city's teachers.

They won't all be dismissed, but state law requires the city to notify teachers by March 1 whether the district could lay them off before the start of the next school year. School officials say warning every teacher gives them the freedom to let go many of them later without having to single any of them out now.

Providence's school district is facing a \$40 million budget shortfall next year.

"Are there going to be less teachers? Yes," Taveras told The Providence Journal. "Will



there be less schools open next year? Yes. Do I know which teachers and which schools? No."

As you can imagine, the local teachers' union is not taking the news well.

"This is beyond insane," Providence Teachers Union President Steve Smith told The Providence Journal's Linda Borg. "Let's create the most chaos and the highest level of anxiety in a district where teachers are already under unbelievable stress. Now I know how the United States State Department felt on Dec. 7, 1941."

Meanwhile, 106 teachers got pink slips in nearby Central

Falls Public School District. Only 11 of those teachers will be fired due to poor performance, according to GoLocalProv.

Central Falls High School, one of the worst performing schools in the state, became a battleground of the education reform movement last year, when the superintendent threatened to fire its entire teaching staff after the union wouldn't agree to a longer school day, after-school tutoring, and a new evaluation system without much extra pay. Teachers argued that the area's poverty, not their lack of effort, was responsible for low test scores. □

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Manchebo received another Gold



PUNTA BRAVO - Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa has been certified again as meeting the requirements of the Green Globe Certification Gold Standard.

Boutique hotel Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, located on the most beautiful white beach and turquoise blue sea, preserve a safe and healthy environment for the island of Aruba, its people and visiting guests. Through teamwork, commitment and enthusiasm management and staff of Manchebo build environmental awareness and follow the Green Globe standards, laws, regulations and reduce, reuse, & recycle throughout the property to prevent and control pollution while supporting the local merchants.

In its recognition to deliver continuous environmental improvements and to secure a sustainable future for the business Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa has been certified as meeting the requirements of the Green Globe Certification Gold Standard.

The recently renovated deluxe guest rooms feature lots of green best practices, including:

- All of the deluxe guest room doors are insulated by weather strips and the patio sliding doors are tinted with double glass resulting in the air-conditioner operating more efficiently.

- The guest room amenities like soaps and shampoos are vegetable based and the packaging is made out of 100% compostable bottles. The boxes are made of recycled paper and printed with vegetable inks. □

Looking for enthusiastic polesitters

Annual Polesitting Championships coming up

ORANEJSTAD - The long weekend surrounding Ascension Day should be blocked out in everyone's diary: it is the four days of fun of the annual Polesitting Championships.

Seven polesitters will try and sit on their perches for hours and days on end in an effort to break the incredible record of 87 hours and fifteen minutes. Last year's championship ended in victory for Heidy Schippers and Liesbeth Croes.

Their colleague Kevin Immerzeel had to give up after 40 hours. Café the Plaza hopes that another great bunch of fun-loving, hardy polesitters will be registering for the event, which is held from June 2 through Sunday, June 5. Registration is open!

The championships have a yearly changing charity, to which part of the money that is generated by the polesitters goes. Café the Plaza also donates a good amount to this good cause. Last year, the Aruba Donkey Foundation received a cheque of a whopping AWG. 17.500,-- for their efforts. The 2011 charity of choice is not yet known: it is early days, but as soon as Café the Plaza manager Martin gets confirmation, it will be published. The volunteers of the charities in question are always super busy, organizing fundraising games and raffles for their cause.

The polesitters get five minutes per hour 'off': this means that they can walk around, stretch, run or get a massage during that time. They do need to be back on their poles on the dot, however, otherwise they



Photos show the volunteers of the Aruba Donkey Foundation in front of Café the Plaza after they received their check last year and Liesbeth Croes (left) and Heidy Schipper (right) when they broke the polesitting record with 87 hours and fifteen minutes.

will be disqualified.

The sitters may save up their five-minute breaks and get a quarter of an hour off after three hours of sitting.

Volunteers will be monitoring, assisting and making all kinds of efforts to keep everyone awake and happy.

For more information, interested polesitters can call Café the Plaza.



Mr. Castorina wins \$103,724.00 playing the Caribbean Stud Poker

Stellaris Casino congratulates Jackpot Winner



PALM BEACH – Recently the Stellaris Casino, Aruba's largest casino congratulated Mr. Castorina as the grand jackpot winner of the evening.

Mr. Castorina, a Marriott guest won \$103,724.00 playing the Caribbean Stud Poker game. His average bet was around \$8.00 and had a Royal Flush to win the grand prize.

On February 14th, the Stellaris Casino celebrated the day of Love, Valentine's Day with a special V-day Bingo and a special "Love" promotion where all casino players receive 4 free raffle tickets to participate together with a rose. During the raffle in the evening, casino guests that were picked from the tombola choose a special heart shaped card to reveal their winning cash prizes out of \$1,000.00. In addition the lucky winners with matching cash prizes received double the amount.

With a romantic setting with live music by NBO and a chocolate fountain with cookies and strawberries, Stellaris' guests had a romantic evening out



Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!



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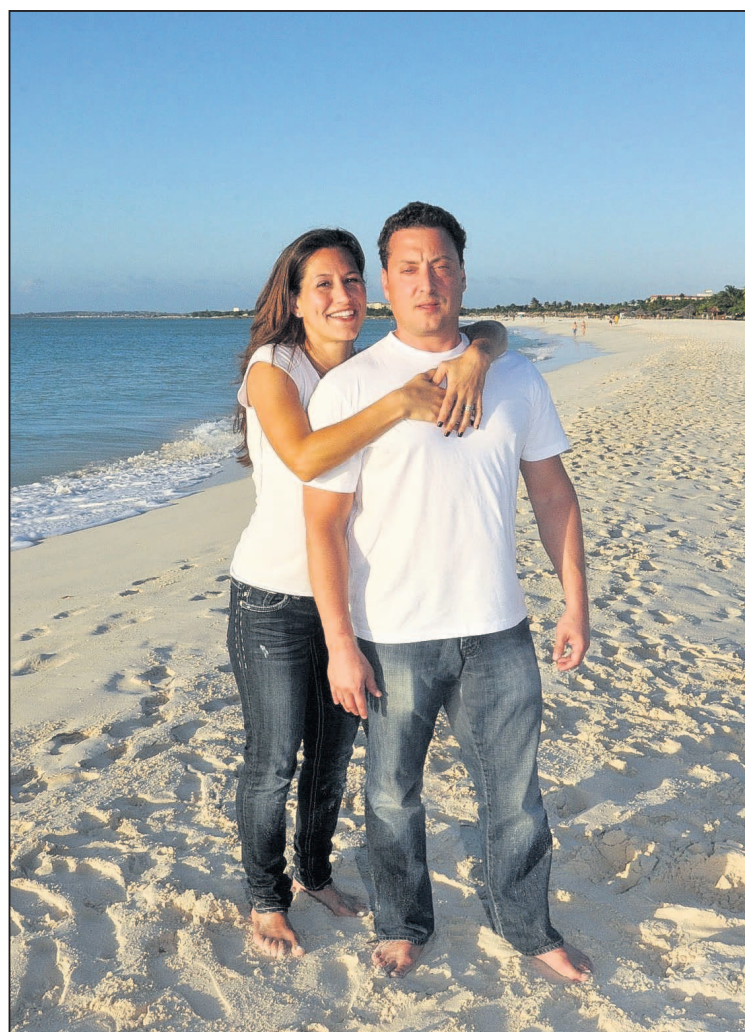
After a long, cold winter in New York

Graf family melts on the beach in Aruba



EAGLE BEACH - Gary and Ronni Graf from Plainview, NY had to shake off the winter cold with a trip to Aruba. With their toes in the sand together with their lovely children Harrison (7) and Samantha (4) and Gary's mother Diane, the Graf's melted into the sand as the beautiful sun gently set into the Caribbean Sea on Eagle Beach. The Graf's are guests of the Occidental Grand resort and love Aruba so much, they've been coming back each year consecutively for 7 years.

Photos by Julia Renfro



Dinner is always a Genuine Spanish Experience

Casa Tua Barcelona hosts Special Show on Wednesday and Friday



ORANJESTAD - What a surprise!!! This old warehouse transformed into a typical Spanish or Italian town's square, with its gurgling fountain, French lamp-post and lime-washed walls features an open Pizza Atelier, under a small country hut, covered with old hand-made roof tiles. Opened downtown Oranjestad two years ago, the restaurant dishes reflect this inter-cultural relationship of Spanish, French and

Italian cuisine, all served in a friendly, casual setting.

On the menu, a wide variety of Spanish Tapas, appetizers starting at \$2.95, and plentiful Paellas, made daily, filled with mussels, clams, shrimp, pork loin and chicken. The menu also boasts famous Pata Negra ham, Chorizo, and other specialty dry-cured pork sausage.

Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "Ala Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean lifestyle. Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island.

To complete this Spanish experience and make it truly unforgettable, Angela Croes, the local Song-Diva,



a native of Spain, a golden recording artist, will perform all Wednesdays and Fridays from 8pm with her daughter and Spanish-Aruban guitar talents.

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

Mr. & Mrs. Fanaras named Goodwill Ambassadors



PALM BEACH – Having been coming to Aruba for the past 21 years, Irene & John Fanaras, from

Concord, New Hampshire, were named Goodwill Ambassadors. The informal ceremony was



performed by Ricardo Croes of the Aruba Tourism Authority, and hosted by Germaine Weber, the resort's Plaza Club manager. The couple was also joined by Belen and Dolfi Kock, two of their local friends. Belem is a famous poet and has been much in the news lately as an

outstanding promoter of the local language, Papiamentu. Irene reports that their first trip to Aruba was in January of 1990 and that they have been returning each winter ever since, making many friends and enjoying their hotel stays. Croes thanked the Fanaras for their many economic

contributions and for making Aruba their home away from home. He expressed gratitude for their exceptional loyalty to the island and its people. Pictured here, festive moments at the Plaza Club, on the 8th floor of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

Gottenbuschs just can't leave One Happy Island

PALM BEACH - Greg and Kat Gottenbusch from Cincinnati, Ohio, say they will have a hard time leaving Aruba after a ten

day visit. This is Greg's 4th visit to Aruba, but Kat's first. Together, they have fallen in love with every part of the Island, and cannot wait to come back. They enjoy snorkeling so much, they have been out every day.



day visit. This is Greg's 4th visit to Aruba, but Kat's first. Together, they have fallen in love

with every part of the Island, and cannot wait to come back. They enjoy snorkeling so much, they have been out every day. To add to that excitement, they had the pleasure of meeting Kent Gerber, who is enjoying



his 23rd visit to Aruba. With Kent's snorkeling experience, he showed Kat and Greg the most amazing places to snorkel around the Island. Greg and Kat are staying at Club Arias, which they say has been a major highlight of their trip. With a beautiful setting and staff, Club Arias along with snorkel guru Kent Gerber, this trip will be one to remember for Kat and Greg!



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Where Is the Military's Line between Psy-Ops & P.R.?

WASHINGTON, DC — A three-star general illegally ordered his psy-op team to target American congressmen visiting their base in Afghanistan, Rolling Stone's Michael Hastings reports. Federal law forbids the use of propaganda on American citizens, but Lt. Gen. William Caldwell demanded his men do so anyway--apparently out of desperation for more troops in the nearly decade-old war. He asked Lt. Colonel Michael Holmes, who led the information operations unit, "How do we get these guys to give us more people? What do I have to plant inside their heads?"

Of course, there were no actual mind-control chips involved: the things Holmes and his team were ordered to do actually seem quite dull: researching senators' voting records, finding their "hot-button issues," silently sitting in on meetings, and tailoring presentations to the lawmakers' interests. In other words, the stuff public affairs officers do all day. So what's the difference between psy-op and PR?

First of all, it's illegal to use propaganda on Americans, thanks to a law passed in 1948 that was meant to prevent Soviet-style manipulation of citizens. Second, using soldiers trained in propaganda on elected representatives would seem to undermine the principle of civilian control of the military. Think about it: Is it ok to use company resources to investigate your boss?



Third, according to documents provided by Holmes, his superiors reordered priorities so that working congressmen took "priority over all other duties"presumably including trying to make the Taliban and Afghan civilians like us.

And Caldwell wanted more than the typical PR stuff: He wanted Holmes' team to give him "deeper analysis of pressure points we could use to leverage the delegation for more funds." Again, the general wanted to know what to "plant inside their heads." As the military lawyer told Holmes works on the hearts and minds of our own citizens and works on the hearts and minds of the citizens of other nations.□

In Arizona

Up for next round of laws?

ARIZONA - You might have thought lawmakers in Arizona were demoralized, in the wake of the federal court decision striking down their sweeping crackdown on immigration. If so, you'd be wrong: the Arizona legislature has crafted a new raft of anti-illegal immigration laws that are winding their way through various committees and may be up for a vote soon.

The most controversial of those measures a bill that seeks to end "birthright citizenship" for children of illegal immigrants passed out of committee. Similar bills have been introduced in Indiana, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Last year's controversial SB 1070 law, meanwhile, continues to gain support from advocates of a harsher border enforcement regime. The Indiana state legislature has adopted its own version of SB



1070, even as the Arizona law faces a fresh round of court challenges from the federal government. And the latest batch of Arizona immigration measures, will likely be headed for similar legal reckonings if the legislature clears them and GOP Gov. Jan Brewer signs them into law. The Arizona Chamber of Commerce, which remained neutral last year during the SB 1070 debate, is strongly urging politicians to back away from

a bill to roll back birthright citizenship rights. The legislation directly challenges the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to all persons born in the United States, regardless of the legal status of their parents. "We believe this case is one which would not get very far, and we are very, very, concerned about the economic consequences of this measure," Glenn Hamer, the Chamber's presidents, told Fox News.□

Ground Zero in the fight for democracy

As demonstrators in the tens of thousands flooded the Capitol in Madison, Wis., a sign captured the spirit: "I didn't think Cairo would be this cold." Even conservative Republican Rep. Paul Ryan saw the parallel: "It's like Cairo moved to Madison." Got that right. As the demonstrations for workers' rights head into their second week, Madison has become ground zero in the battle for democracy in this country.

Don't fall for the dodge that this is about money, the pay and perks of public employees. This is about basic democratic rights, and the balance of power in America. This is a fight in which every U.S. worker has a direct stake. Wisconsin faces budget deficits in the wake of the Great Recession, although not nearly as severe as in many states. In the 2010 election, Republicans captured control of the statehouse and both

houses of the legislature. Scott Walker, the newly elected, self-declared "Tea Party" governor, signed off on tax cuts for businesses and then demanded harsh concessions from public employees, forcing them to pay more for pensions and health care. He coupled this with a direct attack on teacher and public employee unions, seeking to ram through legislation curtailing their right to bargain collectively, limiting any pay



raise to the increase in the cost of living, and requiring an annual vote of members to continue the union. These measures aren't about the budget crisis; they are about eliminating the unions.□

*In Iran***Hunts is on for uranium**

VIENNA – Iran is expanding its covert global search for the uranium it needs for its nuclear activities and a key focus is Zimbabwe, says new intelligence.

The report is in line with international assessments that Iran's domestic supplies cannot sustain its nuclear program that could be turned toward making weapons.

An intelligence report from a member country of the International Atomic Energy Agency shared with the AP by an official from that nation says Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi met secretly last month with senior Zimbabwean mining officials "to resume negotiations for the benefit of Iran's uranium procurement plan."

"This follows work carried out by Iranian engineers to map out uranium deposits in Africa and assess the amount of uranium they contain," said the two-page intelligence summary.

The report confirmed independently by an official from another IAEA country was shared as an Iranian delegation led by the head of the Cooperative Ministry Abbas Johari was meeting with "agriculture and mining interests" in the Zimbabwean capital Harare.

The official confirming the intelligence described the Salehi visit as part of an international Iranian effort that stretches across Africa, Asia and South America and may involve more than a dozen countries.

Both officials whose countries closely follow Iran's nuclear program asked for anonymity in exchange for discussing intelligence matters. □

*In Libya***Gadhafi forces strike back at opponents**

BENGHAZI, Libya – Army units and militiamen loyal to Moammar Gadhafi struck back against rebellious Libyans who have risen up in cities close to the capital, attacking a mosque where many were holding an anti-government sit-in and battling others who seized control of an airport. Medical officials said 15 people were killed in the clashes.

In a rambling phone call to state TV, Gadhafi accused al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden of being behind the uprising. The Libyan leader said the revolt that began Feb. 15 has been carried out by young men hopped up on hallucinogenic pills given to them "in their coffee with milk, like Nescafe."

"Shame on you, people of Zawiya, control your children," he said, addressing residents of the city outside Tripoli where the mosque attack took place. "They are loyal to bin Laden," he said of those involved in the uprising. What do you have to do with bin Laden, people of

Zawiya? They are exploiting young people. I insist it is bin Laden."

The attacks aimed to push back a revolt that has moved closer to Gadhafi's bastion in the capital, Tripoli. Most of the eastern half of Libya has already broken away, and parts of Gadhafi's regime have frayed.

In the latest blow to the Libyan leader, a cousin who was one of his closest aides, Ahmed Gadhaf al-Dam, announced that he has defected to Egypt in protest against the regime's bloody crackdown. He denounced what he called "grave violations to human rights and human and international laws."

In Zawiya, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli, an army unit attacked the Souq Mosque, where regime opponents had been camped for days in a protest calling for Gadhafi's ouster, a witness said. The soldiers opened fire with automatic weapons and hit the mosque's minaret with fire from an anti-aircraft gun, he said. Some of the young



men among the protesters, who were inside the mosque and in a nearby lot, had hunting rifles for protection. A doctor at a field clinic set up at the mosque said he saw the bodies of 10 dead, shot in the head and chest, as well as around 150 wounded.

The witness said that a day earlier, an envoy from Gadhafi had come to the city and warned protesters: "Either leave or you will see a massacre." Zawiya is a key city near an oil port and refineries. After 's assault, thousands massed in Zawiya's main Martyrs Square by the

mosque, shouting for Gadhafi to "leave, leave," the witness said. "People came to send a clear message: We are not afraid of death or your bullets," he said.

The other attack came at a small airport outside Misrata, Libya's third largest city, where anti-government rebels claimed control.

Pro-government militiamen with rocket-propelled grenades and mortars barraged a line of their rivals who were guarding the airport, some armed with rifles, said one of the rebels who was involved in the battle. □

*After shooting***CIA, Pakistani cooperation scaled back**

ISLAMABAD – Cooperation between the American and Pakistani spy agencies has been scaled back because of an incident involving a CIA contractor shooting two Pakistanis, Pakistani intelligence officials said. A senior Pakistani intelligence official in Islamabad said the case of Raymond Davis had strained but not broken relations between the CIA and the Pakistani Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligences (ISI) because the ISI didn't know about Davis before he shot and killed two Pakistanis on January 27 in Lahore.

"It's not business as usual; it's not open war. "Cooperation and operations together will continue at a lesser scale."

Another intelligence official



denied rumors that the two agencies were not working together.

"We are not ready to split," he said.

"There has been a patch up because we have both realized that in the larger interest of

the region and the war on terrorism, CIA and ISI must work together."

The case of 36-year-old Davis, a former U.S. Special Forces officer, has strained the already-uneasy alliance between the United States and

Pakistan, who are supposed to be united in the face of Islamist militants waging a war in Afghanistan.

Davis' killing of two Pakistani men in the eastern city of Lahore in what he says was self-defense has inflamed anti-U.S. sentiment in Pakistan, effectively giving the government little choice but to prosecute him in court. His trial for murder begins on Friday.

Davis has been revealed to be a CIA contractor detailed to provide security at the U.S. consulate in Lahore. The United States says the assignment gives Davis diplomatic immunity and he should be released immediately.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad declined to comment. □

At NZ quake epicenter

Children scream as boulders fall



LYTTELTON, New Zealand – At the epicenter, children in the school playground screamed as the earth rattled and cracked. Elderly residents toppled to the floor in the nursing home. Cliff faces fell, spitting truck-sized boulders across lawns and through houses.

This week's massive earthquake flattened office towers and killed at least 98 people in nearby Christchurch. But this tiny harborside village reported no deaths despite being ground zero. Residents

are thankful for that. But there is devastation all around them. "I thought the devil was coming up out of the earth," said Kevin Fitzgerald, a 63-year-old teacher's aide who yanked a student under a desk and sheltered him as the school rocked menacingly, sending everything crashing to the floor.

"The whole building was just undulating that noise, that NOISE!" he said, shaking his head at the memory. "I thought, 'Well, I'm going to die.'" □

In London

Shop to make breast milk ice

LONDON – A specialist ice cream parlor plans to serve up breast milk ice cream and says people should think of it as an organic, free-range treat. The breast milk concoction, called the "Baby Gaga," will be available from Friday at the Icecreamists restaurant in London's Covent Garden.

Icecreamists founder Matt O'Connor was confident his take on the "miracle of motherhood" and priced at a hefty 14 pounds (\$23) a serving will go down a treat with the paying public. The breast milk was provided by mothers who answered an advertisement on online mothers' forum Mumsnet. Victoria Hiley, 35, from London was one of 15 women who donated milk to the restaurant after seeing the advert.

Hiley works with women who have problems breast-feeding their babies. She said she believes that if adults realized how tasty breast milk actually is, then new mothers would be more willing to breast-feed



their own newborns. "What could be more natural than fresh, free-range mother's milk in an ice cream? And for me it's a recession beater too what's the harm in using my assets for a bit of extra cash," Hiley said in a statement. "I tried the product for the first time today it's very nice, it really melts in the mouth." The Baby Gaga recipe blends breast milk with Madagascan vanilla pods and lemon zest, which is then churned into ice cream. O'Connor said the Baby Gaga was just one of a dozen radical new flavors at the shop. □

Cuba trial for U.S. contractor set for March 4

HAVANA – U.S. aid contractor Alan Gross will face trial in Cuba on March 4, a U.S. spokeswoman said on in a case that could bring him a 20-year prison sentence and worsen U.S.-Cuba relations. Gross, who has been held in Havana since December 2009, was charged on February 4 with committing crimes against the security of the state for illegally importing satellite communications



equipment under a U.S. program outlawed on the communist-led island. U.S. spokeswoman Molly Koscina at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana said Cuba had notified the United States of the trial date, but gave no further details.

She said U.S. officials would attend the trial, which experts have said would likely be conducted by a panel of judges. Cuban trials typically last only a day or two, they said. The United States has said Gross, a 61-year-old development worker, was in Cuba providing

improved Internet access to Jewish groups, but that he broke no laws.

He was a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program begun by the Bush administration aimed at promoting political change in Cuba.

Cuban leaders view the program as part of longstanding U.S. attempts to topple the government that Fidel Castro, after taking power in a 1959 revolution, ran for 49 years before brother Raul Castro succeeded him three years ago. □



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As protests spread across the Middle East

China keeps a firm hand on protests at home



Beijing – Few people in China have even heard about the Middle East upheavals that started with Tunisia's so-called Jasmine Revolution last month. But the authorities are taking no chances here, clamping down before major protests are able to take shape. At least four people have been arrested in China on charges of inciting subversion of state power.

Dozens of activists have been detained or put under house

arrest by Chinese police since last week, and several others simply disappeared in the days leading up to last weekend's planned protests.

The Chinese government, always on the lookout for challenges to its rule, is particularly concerned about mass movements that threaten to link together the grievances of disparate groups or coordinate protests on a national level. While state media has been quick

to dismiss the chances of a Middle East-style uprising in China, the extent to which state security agencies have mobilized to neutralize potential threats and disrupt planned demonstrations suggests that the Communist Party leadership is taking no chances.

Activists are picking up on this nervousness. Even though initial protests held on Feb. 21 fizzled, a new statement appeared on Boxun, a US-based Chinese language website, which is blocked in China, calling for the continuation of demonstrations this coming weekend and doubling the

number of cities with planned protest sites.

"We hope to ride the democratic tide surging through North Africa and the Middle East, to push for transformation and reform in China and to change the injustice and inequality which is right before our eyes gradually becoming the status quo,"

The letter, released today, also calls for demonstrators to "stroll, watch, or even just pretend to be passing by. So long as you are present, the authoritarian government will shake with fear."

Not exactly Tiananmen Square Only a handful of people participated

nationwide in the protests on Sunday afternoon. In Beijing, would-be demonstrators who gathered at a McDonald's on the Wangfujing Pedestrian Mall were vastly outnumbered by hordes of curious tourists, foreign journalists, and dozens of police and state security officers.

Asked why the Chinese government responded so forcefully, Li Datong, a well-connected former editor of a Communist Party publication, answered simply: "Fear."

"The government is fully aware that people don't support it anymore," he says. "It has lost its social credibility." □

In Paris

Luxury hotel for dogs gets tails wagging

VINCENNES, France – Heated pools, massage salons and a-la-carte menus are de rigueur at luxury hotels across the world but in one exclusive Paris establishment the difference is the guests: they have four legs, and enthusiastically wagging tails. Actuel Dogs bills itself as France's first luxury hotel for dogs, and founders Devi and Stan Burun, a dog behavior specialist and lifelong dog-lover, also offer training programs unruly hounds and dog walks in the woods.

As well as a dip in the pool, or a massage, guests including Ulysse, a bumptious yellow Labrador sporting a smart red collar, enjoy "doggy jogging," or simply relax on cushioned couches in their luxury suites. Their tiled-floor rooms smell fresh and clean and are adorned with framed prints of dogs and equipped with televisions so dogs can watch



their choice of DVDs. Owners pay between 26 euros and 35 euros (\$36-\$48) to leave their lucky hounds for a full day and while the luxury touches appeal to owners, the key difference with traditional kennels is that dogs are not locked up in cages.

"People think we serve the dogs' food from silver platters but this is not pointless, extravagant luxury," Devi said, as Clifford, an English bulldog, Cocker Spaniel puppy Floyd, Golden Retriever Cleo

and miniature Schnauzer Belle bounded around the hotel's games room, equipped with a treadmill for training. "It's not like in the United States or Japan giving the dogs manicures, dying their fur pink that's human madness. Our priority is to meet the dogs' needs," she added.

The concept works partly because of its location, in the chic suburb of Vincennes, on the outskirts of Paris, and close to the woods. □



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In Canada

Ontario approves 40 new clean power projects

OTTAWA— The Canadian province of Ontario, fast becoming a clean energy powerhouse said it has approved 40 new large-scale renewable power projects that will create 7,000 jobs and attract C\$3 billion (\$3.06 billion) in private sector investment.

This second round of projects will generate 872 megawatts of electricity from the sun, wind and water, enough power for more than 200,000 homes.

It follows the April announcement of 180 projects that will generate 2,400 MW of clean energy.

The contracts come under Ontario's feed-in tariff (FIT) program, which pays above-market prices under long-term



contracts for power generated by projects that use a set quota of equipment that has been manufactured in the province. The European-style FIT program was launched by Ontario's Liberal government

in October 2009 with the aim of creating jobs, cutting pollution and replacing power lost by the government's plan to shut down all of Ontario's coal-fired generators by the end of 2014. □

East Timor

UN council concerned over police 'credibility'



UNITED NATIONS – The UN Security Council called on East Timor to take action to strengthen the "credibility" of its police force as it extended the stay of the UN mission in the fledgling Asian nation.

The United Nations wants to end its peacekeeping mission in East Timor but is wary of fallout from the 2006 unrest that led to the creation of the international force which is now about 1,500 strong.

East Timor is also to hold a presidential election in 2012.

More than 50 officers in the East Timorese police, the PNTL, face criminal or disciplinary charges but have still been allowed into the new post-independence force.

Concerns were raised by a UN envoy and some of East Timor's main aid partners at a UN Security Council debate this week attended by Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao.

"I trust the government will find no reason to exempt the 52 officers who face serious disciplinary and criminal charges," said Tsuneo Nishida, the UN ambassador for Japan, a key donor to East Timor.

Gusmao, one of the leaders of East Timor's fight for independence from Indonesia, acknowledged the concerns which have also been raised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. □

In Indonesia

Islamic cleric denies terrorism allegations

JAKARTA, Indonesia – A radical Islamic cleric on trial in Indonesia defended violence against nonbelievers but denied charges he led a terrorist cell that was allegedly preparing high-profile assassinations and attacks on Western hotels and embassies.

Abu Bakar Bashir, who has twice escaped terrorism-related convictions, told judges at the tightly guarded South Jakarta District Court he was a victim of a U.S. conspiracy and that all charges against him were fabricated.

He faces a maximum penalty of death if found guilty of helping set up, fund and arm a new terrorist cell and militant training camp that was uncovered in western Aceh province just over a year ago. Bashir said he was unaware of the training camp when it was operating, though he approves of its aim.

"I only learned about this after the fact," said the 72-year-old imam. "But I'm convinced that, based on Islamic law, physical and weapons training in Aceh's mountains was a religious act, ordered by God to strike fear in the hearts of enemies of Islam."

"It's just as important as praying and fasting," he said, reading from his 90-page defense document. □

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Muslim Brotherhood

As Arabs cry for democracy, Islamists may need to follow

The various Arab uprisings have forced the United States to make priorities and fast. It must juggle often-conflicting interests in the Middle East, such as oil, Israel, terrorism, women's rights, and democracy.

One big challenge now emerging in post-Mubarak Egypt is whether Islamic political groups will alter their theology to work within a secular, elected government. Hints that the biggest Islamic organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, will not seek to dominate the country's budding democracy suggest that Egypt might follow the examples set by two other large, mainly Muslim nations, Turkey and Indonesia.

Turkey is a quasi-European country and NATO member that is led by an Islamic party dedicated to secular rule. In Indonesia, Islamic parties have lost favor in the elections since democracy was restored in 1998.

Many predict that the journey of Egypt in many ways the intellectual and cultural center of the Arab world to democracy will be a difficult



one. One key will be whether a government reflects the Egyptian people, in the spirit of the street protests that ousted Hosni Mubarak. Trying to graft a foreign, Western concept onto Muslim roots won't work. Egyptians must see the embracing of universal rights, including the right to a ballot, as their choice.

The 600,000-member-strong Muslim Brotherhood, with its deep roots in both charity and political work, has so far welcomed an open political role for itself after long being tarred as antidemocratic, eager to turn Egypt into another Iran, with clerical rule.

The Brotherhood will form a political party. (It had

members in the recently dissolved parliament, though they could not be openly affiliated with the Brotherhood.) And at least for now, the group says it won't offer a candidate for president in the coming election.

It's far from certain that the Brotherhood could even win a fair presidential election, at least on its first try.

The group seems eager to keep a low profile, and work locally. While it has strong support among a minority of Egyptians, it is also mistrusted by many, including the military, which is now in charge. The Brotherhood played an important, but not leading, role in the recent protests.

Many observers say the Brotherhood has purged itself of radical elements and that it wants to be known as a nonviolent moderate Islamic institution. It quickly and clearly denounced the 9/11 attacks on the US, for example. It has concentrated on generating goodwill among the needy by building schools and clinics in some of Egypt's poorest communities.

To participate in a democracy that will be recognized by the Western world, the Brotherhood will have to accept, at least in principle, the concept of religious pluralism (Egypt has a large Coptic Christian community) and rights for women. There are signs that it is willing to do so.

In a theocracy, whoever claims to speak for God can seize power and rule in His name alone? In a democracy, citizens accept within the protections of a constitution the rule of the majority.

Minority views are not only allowed but expected and protected. Government operates as a secular institution. It leaves religious practices as an individual matter, not a mandate from the state.

If the Muslim Brotherhood can't participate in a democracy under these terms, Egypt may face a dark and twisting road ahead. If it can, Egypt could experience, in Lincoln's words, "a new birth of freedom," and send a burst of light across the Arab world. □

Swiss order freeze on Kadhafi assets



The Swiss government said it wanted to avoid any misappropriation of Libyan state property that might still be in Switzerland.

GENEVA— Switzerland ordered an immediate freeze on any assets that may belong to defiant Libyan strongman Moamer Kadhafi and his entourage, the Swiss foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The Federal Council (government) condemns the violence used by the Libyan strongman against the people in the strongest terms," the ministry said in a statement.

"In view of the developments the Federal Council has decided to block with immediate effect any possible assets of Moamer Kadhafi and his entourage in Switzerland," it added. The Swiss government said it wanted to avoid any misappropriation of Libyan state property that might still be in Switzerland.

Switzerland has been locked in a bitter standoff

with Libya's ruling Kadhafi family since the brief arrest of a son of the Libyan leader, Hannibal, in a Geneva hotel in July 2008 on suspicion of assaulting two of his domestic workers.

Among other measures, the dispute triggered economic sanctions by Libya including the mass withdrawal of Libyan assets from the Alpine country's prized and secretive banking sector.

The Swiss central bank told reporters that total Swiss banking relations with Libya amounted to 613 million Swiss francs, with an additional 205 million francs in paper or fiduciary operations.

That compared with 5.7 billion and 812 million francs respectively in 2007, before the diplomatic spat.

The figures relate to overall commitments involving Libyan assets, not necessarily to funds linked to the Kadhafi family that might be blocked.

The move came amid growing international condemnation and diplomatic moves against violence in Libya, after Kadhafi reacted to the most serious challenge to his 41-year rule with deadly force. □

Afghan officials say

NATO killed 62 civilians

On Sunday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai accused NATO of having killed more than 50 civilians in eastern Afghanistan's troubled Kunar province, and sent a team to inquire into the alleged civilian deaths.

"After three days of investigation, we found out that 62 civilians, including women and children, were killed and 10 others injured in the NATO operation," the head of the probe team, Shahzada Massoud, who is a Karzai adviser, told reporters in Kunar.

He did not clarify whether any insurgents were killed in the operation, but a member of the probe team, Shahzada Shahid, separately told AFP that 14 Taliban militants had also been killed, on top of the 62.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan contacted by AFP refused to comment on the government's findings before its own ongoing probe was completed.

There have been several instances recently in which civilians have been killed and foreign forces have been accused of indiscriminate or excessive force.

Karzai says such incidents erode support for his Western-backed administration, which faces an Islamic insurgency that has expanded every year since it was launched by the Taliban following their ouster in late 2001.

There are about 140,000 foreign forces, the bulk of them Americans, deployed in Afghanistan under the US



leadership to help Kabul defeat the Taliban.

NATO also said it was investigating allegations that fire from one of its planes killed five civilians in Kapisa province, north-east of Kabul. Local villagers had alleged the men were civilians hunting in the mountains of Alasai district when they were attacked by NATO planes, provincial police chief Abdul Hamid Arkin told AFP.

Civilian casualties are an extremely sensitive issue and have in the past led to major anti-US and government street protests, as well as causing rifts in Kabul's relations with its Western allies. □

FOWLED UP: Mickelson out of match play

Phil Mickelson watches his approach shot on the second hole while playing Rickie Fowler during the second round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, February 25, 2011

WINDIES WHIPPED



West Indies captain Darren Sammy, left and a team official help bowler Darren Bravo to move off the field after slipping on his follow through during a ICC Cricket World Cup match.

Page B2

DUBAI MASTER



Roger Federer from Switzerland serves the ball to Spain's Marcel Granollers during the 3rd round of Dubai ATP Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday Feb. 23, 2011.

Associated Press
Page B6

GARDEN PARTY

Anthony, Billups debut with Knicks



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) drives between Milwaukee Bucks' John Salmons (15) and Andrew Bogut, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in New York. Anthony scored 27 points as the Knicks won 114-108.

Associated Press
NBA Roundup
Page B5

Forbes ranks Hendrick top value in NASCAR



Dale Earnhardt, Jr., left, talks with team owner Rick Hendrick, right, before the first of two NASCAR Gatorade Duel auto races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Forbes' annual rankings show that Hendrick Motorsports is the most valuable team in NASCAR for the third consecutive year.

Forbes' report released Wednesday showed NASCAR's top team was worth \$350 million. But the report finds the average team value has declined 5 percent over the past year because of declining sponsorships.

Roush Fenway Racing is again ranked second at a value of \$224 million, and Richard Childress Racing is ranked third at \$158 million.

Joe Gibbs Racing (\$152 million) and Penske Racing (\$100 million) round out the top five.

Forbes says the average team is valued at \$136 million and generated an average of \$89 million in revenue last year.

Forbes ranked three Hendrick drivers as the highest paid in NASCAR. Dale Earnhardt Jr. is first at \$29 million, followed by Jeff Gordon (\$25 million) and Jimmie Johnson (\$24 million.)

Tony Stewart was fourth at \$18 million and Kevin Harvick fifth at \$15 million.

On the Web: www.forbes.com. □



South African AB de Villiers bats against West Indies during their Cricket World Cup Group B match in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

Associated Press

South Africa beats Windies

Confirm contender status

STUART CONDIE

AP Sports Writer

NAGPUR, India (AP)—South Africa eased to a convincing seven-wicket opening win over the West Indies on Thursday, confirming its status as a strong contender for the World Cup.

A day before Australia gets the first real test of its title defense, Pakistan-born spinner Imran Tahir took four wickets on his competitive debut and AB de Villiers hit 107 not out in one of the strongest performances so far.

With India and Sri Lanka also in form, there should be strong competition this year for Australia, which puts its World Cup-record 30-game unbeaten streak on the line Friday against New Zealand.

But India fans hoping to see their team were charged by stick-wielding police after they had queued in vain in Bangalore to buy tickets for Sunday's game against England.

Back in New Delhi's Group B match, South Africa captain Graeme Smith put West Indies into bat and watched as his spinners did the hard work. After Chris Gayle fell to offspinner Johan Botha in the opening over, Darren Bravo hit 73 to lead the West Indies to a comfortable 113-1. But

he too fell to Botha — who finished with 2-48 — and legspinner Tahir then took control.

The Lahore-born bowler, who only qualified to play for South Africa at the turn of the year, took four of the next six wickets for figures of 4-41. The West Indies lost its last five wickets for just 13 runs, with paceman Dale Steyn finishing with 3-24.

The right-handed De Villiers then controlled a century partnership with his captain and an unbeaten stand of 84 with JP Duminy (42 not out) to take South Africa to victory despite the early loss of Hashim Amla and Jacques Kallis.

Not even a rain break could disrupt South Africa's rhythm. "It's always good to start a tournament like this and hopefully we can go from strength to strength," Duminy said.

"We definitely take a lot of confidence out of today's win." While South Africa looks forward to a game with the Netherlands in a week's time, the West Indies must rebuild before facing the same opponent on Monday. Only spinner Sulieman Benn truly challenged the South Africa batsmen and allrounder Dwayne Bravo could be out

after collapsing with what could be a serious knee injury while bowling only his third over.

Bravo was taken to a hospital for a scan.

The match took place in front of another small crowd, with only games featuring host nations India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh so far attracting fans in big numbers.

India's Group B match against England in Bangalore is a sellout but some of the thousands who had spent Wednesday night camped out outside the 50,000-seat M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in the hope of picking up a late ticket suffered a beating as well as disappointment.

Indian media reported that a public allocation of 7,000 tickets had all gone by late morning and the crowds vented their frustration at police, who responded by trying to subdue them with their bamboo sticks.

"There was a big gathering of about 25,000 to 30,000 people who were to be disciplined," said G. Ramesh, a Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"In the push and pull, some people fell down and two or three sustained minor injuries." □

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Fowler bounces Mickelson; Westwood gone, too



Lee Westwood, right, reacts after losing to Nick Watney during the second round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — Italian teen Matteo Manassero led another youth movement in the Match Play Championship, joining Rickie Fowler among the 16 players who advanced to the third

round on Thursday.

The 17-year-old Manassero withstood a late rally by Charl Schwartzel of South Africa with a 6-iron into 4 feet on the 17th hole that carried him to a 1-up victory. Fowler, a 22-year-old who wears matching pink shirt and shoes,

hit a pair of 4-irons into the par 5s for eagle on the back nine to hand Phil Mickelson his worst loss ever in this tournament. Joining them in the third round was Nick Watney, who steadied his emotions over the last three holes to knock out top-ranked Lee Westwood — the third straight year the No. 1 seed did not make it out of the second round.

The highest seed remaining after two wild days was PGA champion Martin Kaymer, the 25-year-old German who had to go 20 holes to beat Justin Rose. Of the 16 players remaining, eight of them are under 30.

Manassero keeps setting age records wherever he goes — the youngest to win the British Amateur, the youngest to be low amateur at the British Open and the Masters, the youngest to win on the European Tour.

“It’s a big sense of achievement for me,” Manassero said.

He was in control for much of his match against Schwartzel until nearly giving it away. His tee shot on the 16th bounced off the corporate tents and into a cactus, and the Italian felt as though he might have moved the ball while trying to remove a loose branch. So he conceded the hole to Schwartzel, and put it behind him quickly.

His 6-iron on the 17th set up birdie, and Manassero closed it out with a par on the 18th. Mickelson didn’t play his best, and it might not have mattered. Fowler seized control with a tough pitch to close range on the eighth, chipped in from off the green on the 10th, then made two eagles. He ended the match with a 4-iron from 232 yards that rolled so close to the flag that Mickelson conceded the eagle.

“He doesn’t really have a weakness,” Mickelson said. “He really is a complete player, and he put it together today. I just couldn’t keep pace. I think he’s going to do a lot for American golf.”

Also winning Thursday was Jason Day, the 23-year-old from Australia who beat last year’s finalist, Paul Casey, in 16 holes. This was his debut in the Accenture Match Play Championship, and he already is showing some guile. He irritated Casey by making him putt from short

distance, and Casey missed his share.

Day never trailed in winning their match, 4 and 2.

One youngster who did not advance was 21-year-old Rory McIlroy, the No. 7 seed. He ran into Ben Crane, who played perhaps his quickest round ever — the match ended on the 11th hole, an 8-and-7 victory. Crane has the reputation for slow play, although that wasn’t an issue. “We played quick out there because he was making birdies,” McIlroy said.

U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland had no trouble with Ross Fisher in a 4-and-2 victory, which assured he will move ahead of Tiger Woods in the next world ranking.

“I’m perhaps a better golfer than him in the last 12 months, but he’s definitely the greatest player that’s ever lived, I think,” McDowell said. “Of course, if someone told me at some point in my career I would be No. 3 in the world, I’d be proud of that fact.”

Kaymer, meanwhile, kept alive his chances of going to No. 1 when he held on to beat Rose and Westwood was beaten. The German will have to reach the championship match to reach the top ranking. Watney and Westwood halved the last three holes, although it wasn’t that simple. □

Mediator says NFL, union make ‘some progress’

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON — Just as many expected would happen all along, labor negotiations between the NFL and the players’ union are heading right down to the wire — and possibly beyond. In the first real indication of what’s been going on behind closed doors, the federal mediator overseeing talks said Thursday the two sides made “some progress” during more than 40 hours spread over seven consecutive days of face-to-face meetings, but “very strong differences remain.”

The league and union will resume mediation Tuesday, less than 72 hours before the old collective bargaining agreement is set to expire. If there’s no new deal in place by the end of next Thursday, the union thinks owners will move to lock out players, threatening the 2011 season. The NFL has said, however, that the deadline could be extended.

George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, released a statement shortly before noon Thursday, his first public comments since he began working with Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and their negotiating

teams last week.

“At bottom, some progress was made,” he said, “but very strong differences remain on the all-important core issues that separate the parties.” While Cohen did not name those issues, the biggest sticking point all along has been how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant topics in negotiations: a rookie wage scale; the owners’ push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith and the rest of the union’s negotiating team left the building at about 12:30 p.m., three hours after arriving. The NFL departed afterward.

“Just continue talking, man — that’s what we’re doing,” Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday said as he got into a car. “I think ownership — everybody — needs to know that we’re all committed to it and committed to getting something done.” Members of both groups now head to Indianapolis for the NFL’s annual scouting combine for draft prospects; the league was to brief general managers, coaches and other team officials Thursday, and the union speaks to agents on Friday. □

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late show: 11:45
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daily: 5:00 - 7:15
matinee: 12:15 - 2:30
late show: 11:45
G

THE RITE
daily: 9:30
matinee: 12:00
late show: 12:00
SP R

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late show: 11:00
PG-13

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daily: 6:00 - 8:45
matinee: 12:30 - 3:15
late show: 11:30
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BIG MOMMA HOUSE 3
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SANCTUM 3D
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I AM NUMBER FOUR
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JUSTIN BIEBER: NEVER SAY NEVER 3D
daily: 4:45 - 7:00
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15
late show: 11:45
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SP = subtítulos en Español

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Marleau lifts Sharks to 3-2 OT win over Pens



San Jose Sharks' Patrick Marleau (12) celebrates with Devin Setoguchi (16) and Marc-Edouard Vlasic, center, after scoring the game-winning goal with four seconds remaining in overtime of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. Associated Press

NHL Roundup

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Patrick Marleau scored his second goal of the game at

4:56 of overtime to extend the San Jose Sharks' winning streak to five games with a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

Logan Couture also scored while Antti Niemi stopped 24 shots.

The Sharks vaulted a point ahead of Phoenix to take over the Pacific Division lead.

Tyler Kennedy scored twice for the Penguins, including tying the game by stuffing in Jordan Staal's rebound, with 50 seconds remaining in the third period.

Marleau scored the decisive goal during a scramble in front, and after Marc-Andre Fleury stopped Couture from in close. The rebound dribbled to the left of the net, where Marleau flipped it in.

Lightning 8, Coyotes 3

At Tampa, Florida, Teddy Purcell had his first career hat trick, and Vincent Lecavalier added a goal and four assists as Tampa Bay ended Phoenix's eight-game winning streak. Purcell had one of the five opening-period goals, and added a pair during the second.

Steven Stamkos scored his NHL-leading 41st goal this season, and Martin St. Louis also had two goals and an assist for the Lightning, who

are 6-3-2 during a 12-game homestand.

Phoenix got goals from Martin Hanzal, Kyle Turris and David Schlemko.

The eight goals is the most allowed by the Coyotes this season.

Sabres 4, Thrashers 1

At Buffalo, New York, Tyler Myers had a goal and assist, and Ryan Miller made 40 saves to lift Buffalo over Atlanta in front of new Sabres owner Terry Pegula.

Paul Gaustad, Jason Pominville, and Tyler Ennis also scored for the Sabres (28-25-6), who snapped a three-game losing streak to win the fourth game of a season-long six-game homestand.

The Sabres and Thrashers came in tied for ninth place in the Eastern Conference with 60 points.

With the win, Buffalo moved within three points of idle Carolina for the eighth and final playoff spot with two games in hand.

Andrew Ladd scored, and Ondrej Pavelec finished with 35 saves for the slumping Thrashers (25-26-10).

Senators 5, Panthers 1

At Ottawa, Bobby Butler scored twice and Craig Anderson made 23 saves as Ottawa ended a 10-game home losing streak.

Butler, who has five goals in his past five games, scored midway through the first. He added his second of the game midway through the second to give Ottawa its second two-goal lead. Jason Spezza had a goal and two assists and Ryan Shannon had a goal and an assist. Milan Michalek also scored for the Senators, who had not won at Scotiabank Place in nearly two months. Anderson won his second start in a row since the Senators acquired him from Colorado on Friday in a trade for goalie Brian Elliott.

Chris Higgins scored his 11th goal for Florida, which has lost four of five. Scott Clemmensen stopped 29 shots.

Oilers 5, Avalanche 1

At Denver, rookie Taylor Hall had a goal and an assist, and goalie Devan Dubnyk made 38 saves to lead Edmonton past Colorado. □

Cards' Wainwright needs surgery



In this Feb. 16, 2011 file photo, St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright throws during spring training baseball in Jupiter, Fla. Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright will have Tommy John surgery on his right elbow and miss the entire season.

Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak confirmed the news Thursday from spring training camp. He said he learned the severity of the injury Wednesday night after

the 29-year-old pitcher sought a second opinion from Dr. Lewis Yocum in Los Angeles. A surgery date is not set.

"It's not a real surprise to us but certainly a disappointment," Mozeliak said. "As we look to the future now we certainly believe we still have a strong starting rotation. Now we're going to have to look to try to fill it in terms of a fifth spot."

Wainwright, who won 20 games last year and was runner-up for the NL Cy Young Award, felt arm stiffness after Monday's throwing session. He had experienced soreness toward the end of last season and didn't pitch in September. He had minor arm issues in 1998 and 2004.

His loss leaves the team with a big hole in a starting rotation that for now includes Chris Carpenter, Kyle Lohse, Jaime Garcia and Jake Westbrook.

"That's a big guy to miss," Lohse said. "We still got to go out there and play. Nobody is going to feel sorry for us. We still have to go out there and do our jobs."

The Cardinals entered spring training with a rotation that Mozeliak said he would stack up against any in baseball.

"You're losing an ace," Mozeliak said. "It's not something you can replace overnight. I would also say we have four quality pitchers. □

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Anthony has 27, Knicks beat Bucks in his debut

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony had 27 points and 10 rebounds, hitting a pair of vital baskets in front of a crowd that cheered his every move as New York beat the Milwaukee Bucks 114-108 on Wednesday in his Knicks debut.

Anthony made only 10 of 25 shots but was at his best in the closing minutes, helping New York hold on after fellow superstar Amare Stoudemire fouled out. He matched the third-highest scoring game in a Knicks debut since 1964, just two points shy of Keith Van Horn's 29 on Oct. 29, 2003.

Chauncey Billups, who came with Anthony from Denver in Tuesday's blockbuster trade, finished with 21 points and eight assists as the Knicks won their third straight. Toney Douglas scored 23 points and Stoudemire had 19.

John Salmons scored 27 points for the Bucks.

Mavericks 118, Jazz 99

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points as Dallas cruised past Utah, a few hours after the Jazz traded away leading scorer Deron Williams to New Jersey.

Peja Stojakovic hit four 3-pointers and scored 18 points, and Shawn Marion contributed 16 points for the Mavericks, who had seven double-figure scorers in their fourth straight victory. Dallas has won 14 of its last 15 overall.

Al Jefferson scored 30 points, Paul Millsap had 18 and Andrei Kirilenko 17 for the Jazz, who have lost five straight.

Spurs 109, Thunder 105

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored the last of his 20 points with a 16-footer with 26.1 seconds left, and Gary Neal added 19 points to lead San Antonio to the victory.

The Spurs improved to 47-10, moving within three wins of their total from last season.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 30 points, and Russell Westbrook had 25.

Kings 111, Magic 105

At Orlando, Florida, Jermaine Taylor had 21 points and Beno Udrih added 18 as Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak against Orlando.

Samuel Dalembert and Jason Thompson had 17 points apiece for Sacramento, which won for just the third time in its last 11 games.

Dwight Howard had 31 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando. Hedo Turkoglu added 19 and Jameer Nelson 15.

Suns 105, Hawks 97

At Phoenix, Channing Frye scored six of his 20 points in the final four minutes as Phoenix pulled away from the

short-handed Atlanta.

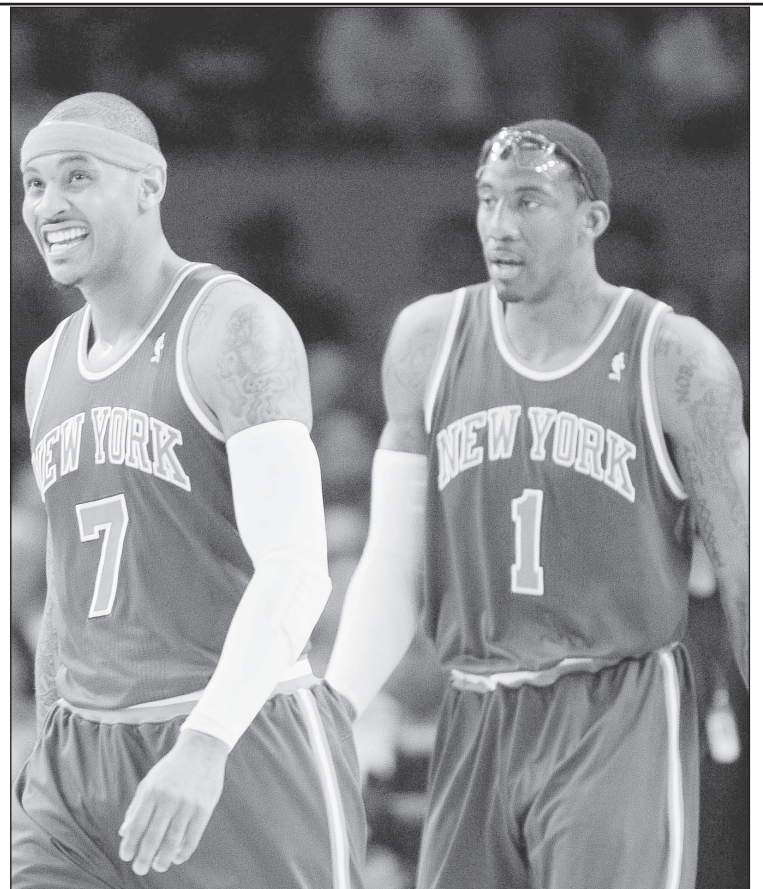
Jared Dudley went 4 for 5 from 3-point range and finished with 17 points for Phoenix. Steve Nash scored all 13 of his points in the second half and had 10 assists.

Josh Smith scored 26 for the Hawks. Jamal Crawford had 19 points and Al Horford added 17.

Hornets 98, Clippers 87

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 19 points and 10 assists to lead New Orleans to the victory.

David West scored 22 for the Hornets, who were able to overcome Blake Griffin and control the inside, even with center Emeka Okafor missing his 10th straight game with a strained left hip. □



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) and Amare Stoudemire (1) walk during a pause in play in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in New York. Anthony scored 27 points in his debut with the team as the Knicks defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 114-108. Associated Press

Cavs get Baron Davis, high pick from Clippers

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

INDEPENDENCE,

Ohio – With the NBA's power shifting eastward, the Cleveland Cavaliers didn't want to fall too far behind.

Just hours before the league's trading deadline, the struggling Cavs acquired point guard Baron Davis and an unprotected 2011 first-round draft pick from the Los Angeles Clippers for guard Mo Williams and forward Jamarion Moon.

While it's not comparable to the blockbuster Carmelo Anthony-to-New York or Deron Williams-to-New Jersey deals, it's an important step for a Cleveland team rebuilding in the wake of LeBron James' departure.

"We're excited about the

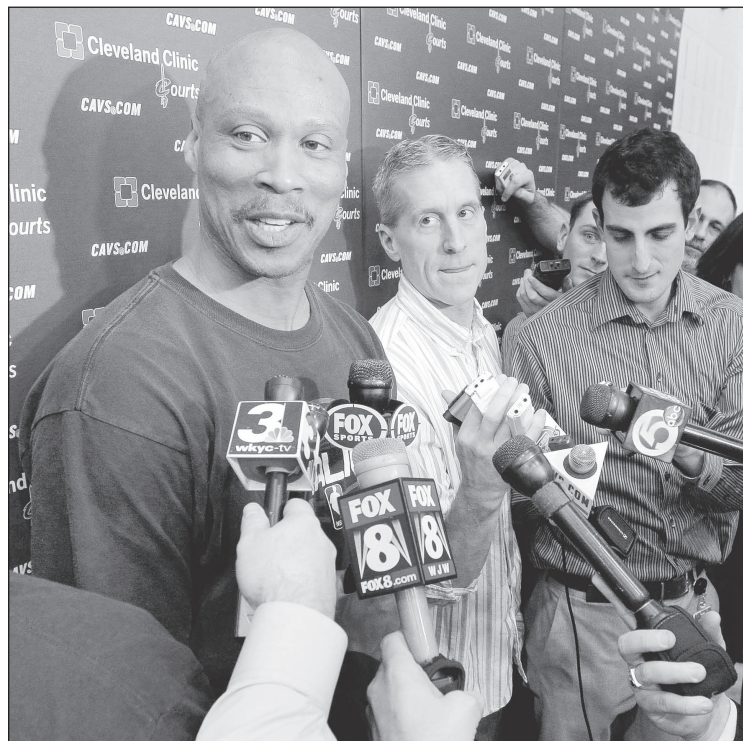
future here," coach Byron Scott said.

At 10-47, the Cavs, who recently lost a record 26 straight games, have the league's worst record in their first season without James, the two-time league MVP who bolted for Miami as a free agent last summer. Cleveland general manager Chris Grant's goal has been to add draft picks to replenish his roster, and he'll go into June's draft with two first-round and two second-round picks.

"We feel good about it," he said.

"We're eager to keep going and keep moving. Our scouting department just got a little busier, which is a good thing."

Grant said the club could make another move before the deadline. □



FOWLED UP: Mickelson out of match play

Phil Mickelson watches his approach shot on the second hole while playing Rickie Fowler during the second round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, in Marana, Ariz. Associated Press

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Federer, Berdych, Djokovic in Dubai semifinals



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Florian Mayer from Germany during the quarter finals round of Dubai ATP Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday Feb. 24, 2011.

Associated Press

MICHAEL CASEY,
AP Sports Writer
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, winners of six of the previous eight Dubai Championships, remained on course to meet in the final with straight-sets quarterfinal wins on Thursday. Federer was broken for the first time in three matches but handled his debut meeting with Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 6-3, 6-4, while two-time defending champion Novak Djokovic beat Florian Mayer of Germany 7-5, 6-4. Federer will play Richard Gasquet, who overcame Gilles Simon 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 in an all-French match. Djokovic will

next meet Tomas Berdych in a rematch of their Australian Open quarterfinal. Djokovic won that, then beat Federer in the semis and Andy Murray in the final.

"Yeah, tough one. (Berdych is) playing really well in the last year and a half," Djokovic said. "He's a quite consistent player right now. He has a very powerful serve, very fast baseline strokes, very flat, so I guess I need to be patient and wait for my chances."

Stakhovsky saved three match points but Federer finally won when Stakhovsky hit a return wide.

"I thought it was a tough match, tougher than the last couple," Federer said.

Djokovic trailed Mayer 5-3 in the first set but the unseeded German's serve abandoned him and Djokovic wasn't troubled again.

"The ball was going faster today, and he took it to me from the start," Djokovic said. "Already first game he was on the net, twice, three times. I was not moving my legs well. I was making lots of unforced errors."

Djokovic finished better than he started, however, winning the last four games in the first set and the last five in the second.

Next up was Berdych, who beat Phillip Petzschner of Germany 7-5, 6-4 in just under two hours.

The third-seeded Czech broke Petzschner three times in the first set but dropped serve twice. Berdych wasted six set points, closing it out when Petzschner hit a forehand long. The second set was just as close, with Berdych making the decisive break for 5-4.

Berdych conceded he had trouble with the big-serving Petzschner, whom he lost to last year.

"Philipp likes to play big serves, sometimes come to the net, a lot of slice in the backhand side and then he just makes a winner like that," Berdych said. "He does not give you a rhythm on court at all."

Gasquet improved his record against Simon to 5-0, but he'll carry a seven-match losing streak against Federer into their semifinal.

"I know I have to play my game, not try to play too good," Gasquet said. "When I played him in Bercy last year, I wanted to play very good, to play all the lines, and I made a lot of mistakes. So I just have to try to play my game. For sure, he's the favorite for the match." □

Wozniacki and Zvonareva into Qatar Open semifinals

S. BALAKRISHNAN

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Vera Zvonareva came from 5-3 down in the deciding set to beat Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-5 in a thrilling quarterfinal of the Qatar Ladies Open on Thursday.

Zvonareva awaited the winner of the late match between Jelena Jankovic and Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic.

Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki won 12 straight games to beat Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-2, 6-0 and set up a semifinal against Marion Bartoli of France.

Hantuchova had beaten Zvonareva in the Pattaya Open semifinals this month and looked set for an encore. But the Russian rallied to break back in the 10th and 12th games to end the 3-hour, 10-minute match.

Zvonareva hit 48 winners to 29, while Hantuchova committed 57 unforced errors in her third consecutive three-



Vera Zvonareva of Russia serves to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia during their quarterfinal WTA Qatar Open tennis match in Doha, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

Associated Press

setter.

"It was a tough match. Daniela is a great player and very aggressive," Zvonareva said. "I'm happy to come through and be in the semifinal."

Wozniacki, who won the Dubai title last week, extended her winning streak to eight matches after losing the first two games of the match.

She wore a Liverpool football shirt with Steven Gerrard's name on the back during the warmup.

"I'm a big fan of Liverpool," Wozniacki said. "Since Liverpool is playing tonight (against Sparta Prague), I thought it would be nice and even the fans liked it."

Wozniacki made just seven unforced errors against Pennetta, who appeared to lose heart after dropping serve in a 12-minute fourth game. The top-seeded Wozniacki finally won it with one of her trademark backhand returns to draw level at 2-2.

"I was playing really good tennis," Wozniacki said. "I stayed calm and had to go for my shots."

Pennetta, who has never won against Wozniacki in their four previous meetings, could fair no better in the second set, committing 21 unforced errors.

Bartoli ended Peng Shuai's challenge in just 71 minutes with a 6-2, 6-2 victory. □

Mardy Fish into Delray Beach quarterfinals

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP) — Second-seeded Mardy Fish of the United States defeated Ricardo Mello of Brazil 6-2, 6-1 in a matchup of former champions in the second round of the Delray Beach International on Thursday.

Fish earned a quarterfinal against either Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, the 2009 U.S. Open champion, or Teymuraz Gabashvili of Russia.

Fish won the Delray title in 2009 and has reached the quarters at least four times. Mello won his lone career title here in 2004. Fish broke Mello's serve in the first and fifth games of the first set and allowed the Brazilian only to hold serve in the opening game of the second. Qualifier Alejandro Falla of Colombia upset eighth-seeded Adrian Mannarino of France 6-3, 6-2 in another second-round match. □

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Investing in a Box: \$48M bet on storage service

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Some technology-savvy venture capitalists are making a big bet on a promising Internet company run by a 26-year-old college dropout in Palo Alto, California. Only this time, the object of their financial affection isn't Facebook and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg.

It's Box.net, a startup that offers online storage lockers for personal and corporate information. The privately held company is getting \$48 million from a group of investors and financiers, which include two of Facebook's major shareholders: venture capital firms Meritech Capital and Andreessen Horowitz. The similarities don't end there.

Box is based in Palo Alto, as Facebook has been for nearly seven years. Its CEO, Aaron Levie, is 26 years old like Zuckerberg, who dropped out of Harvard University after his sophomore year in 2004 and moved to Silicon Valley to focus on building what turned into the Internet's biggest social networking site. Levie dropped out of his college, the University of Southern California, in 2005 to think outside the box with Box. It was an audacious decision, given that he had little to go on besides an idea backed by \$11,000 that his longtime friend, Box co-founder Dylan Smith, had won in poker games. Since then, Box has raised about \$80 million, including the \$48 million round announced Thursday. Its

backers are convinced that the company's service has a good chance to become an indispensable business tool.

"We think it may be reaching an inflection point," George Bischof, managing partner of Meritech Capital.

Bischof sees some parallels to where Facebook was in its evolution when Meritech invested in that company in 2006. It was right about the time that Facebook became available to all comers after initially confining the service to college students. Since the change, Facebook has grown from about 12 million active users to more than 500 million today. It now boasts a market value of \$50 billion, based on \$1.5 billion in investments engineered by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. last month. Facebook's success has made Zuckerberg a billionaire.

Levie won't reveal the market value implied by the latest investment in Box, but indicated it's below \$1 billion. Box finished last year with 5 million users.

Box users upload various documents and other content to the company's computer centers. Storing information this way, a concept often called "cloud computing," means it can be called up on any device with an Internet connection. That makes it easier to share with co-workers and other people.

Box's focus on the business, or "enterprise," market makes it seem more mundane than some of the other investments that Andreessen Horowitz has made in more widely used Internet services — a group that, besides Facebook,

includes Twitter, Zynga, Skype and Groupon. It also means there probably won't be any Oscar-nominated movies made about Box, as Zuckerberg got with "The Social Network." And Levie seems unlikely to be named Time magazine's person of year, as Zuckerberg was last year. But that doesn't mean Box can't deliver a huge windfall for its investors, said John O'Farrell, a general partner at Andreessen Horowitz.

"Enterprise software is a less sexy space, but that has created a huge opportunity for investors like us," O'Farrell said. Box offers individual storage accounts with up to 5 gigabytes of storage for free. □



This screen shot shows the homepage of Box.net. Box.net is a provider of online storage lockers for personal and corporate information.

Associated Press

Google asks Swiss court to lift Street View curbs

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Google Inc. asked a Swiss court Thursday to lift curbs on its Street View service that have prevented the Internet search giant from updating the popular ground-level pictures in Switzerland for more than a year. The country's strict privacy laws have proved a headache for the California company as it seeks to provide comprehensive 360-degree panoramas of streets and buildings around the world. Lawyers for Google told Switzerland's Federal Administrative Court



The Robot "Roovie-PC" of Team Vstone, center, leads a race during the world's first full marathon for robots in Osaka, western Japan, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

Associated Press

World's first robot marathon kicks off in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — The world's first robot marathon is under way in western Japan, with five two-legged participants racing on an indoor track.

The race kicked off Thursday with the 1-foot-tall, battery-charged robots competing around a 100-meter racetrack must complete 422 laps. They will have to cover 26 miles.

Japanese robot maker and event organizer Vstone Co. says the "Robo Mara Full" race in Osaka will demonstrate the machines'

durability and maneuverability.

Vstone robots took an early lead, while two entrants by Osaka University of Engineering teams got off to a shaky start.

Survivors of the nonstop race — except for battery changes and repairs — are expected to last through Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011 when their human counterparts run in the popular Tokyo marathon.

Vstone CEO Nobuo Yamato hopes the event will become international in the future. □

in Bern that Street View is comparable to services offered by rivals, and personal privacy is guaranteed thanks to technology which automatically blurs faces and car plates. Switzerland's data protection commissioner, Hanspeter Thuer, claimed otherwise. Using a live version of Street View, he demonstrated examples where the software failed to obscure faces of adults and children in public — including outside the court — and even inside

private homes. "I don't want a ban of Google Street View," Thuer told the court. "But in the present form Google Street View breaches basic principles of privacy." The company has faced similar concerns in many of the 27 countries where Street View is available, including the United States and Germany. In Israel, officials have expressed worry that the Street View might be used for terrorism and instructed the company to modify the service. □

Elpida raises \$145Min Taiwan listing

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Elpida Memory Inc. said Thursday it has raised 4.2 billion New Taiwan dollars (\$145 million) in a secondary listing on the Taiwan Stock Exchange as the Japanese memory chip maker seeks alliances amid fierce competition.

The money will be used in Elpida’s development and production of cutting-edge 20- and 30-nanometer chips, said company president and CEO Yukio Sakamoto at a Taipei news conference ahead of the Friday listing.

Elpida’s listing in the form of Taiwan Depositary Receipts comes amid closer ties with Taiwanese firms who are also facing tough competition from South Korea’s Samsung Electronics and Hynix Semiconductor.

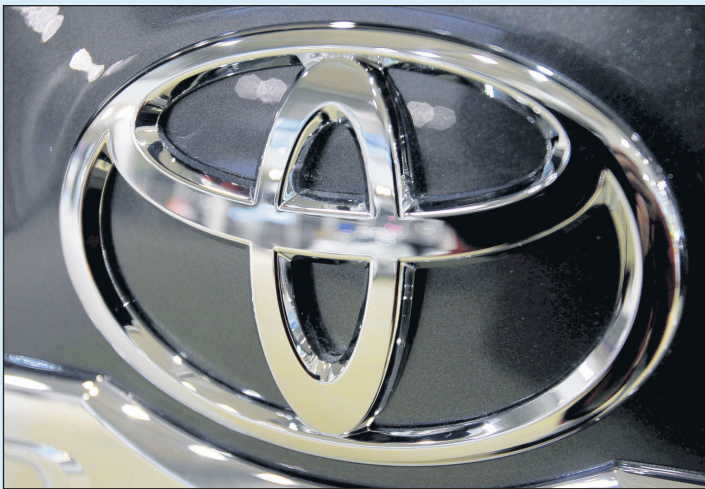
The market for DRAM, or dynamic random access memory, is expected to recover from a long slump in the April-June quarter, with demand for mobile chips expected to surge with the growing sales of tablet PCs and smartphones, Sakamoto said.

Rexchip Electronics, a Taiwanese maker in which Elpida has a majority stake, will add mobile chips to its production lines in the second half this year, he said.

He said Elpida’s output will also gain from its alliance with Taiwan’s Powerchip Technology, which has suspended its own marketing efforts to become a subcontractor for the Japanese maker.

Elpida is seeking additional cooperation with other Taiwanese DRAM makers, Sakamoto said, but refused to give details.

Amid a glut of DRAM supply following the 2008 global financial crisis, the Taiwanese government sought to consolidate its six DRAM makers into a new company working with either Elpida or U.S.-based MicronTechnology. But the project fell apart.□



In this Jan. 26, 2011 photo, the logo of Toyota Motor Corp. shines in front of a car displayed at the Japanese automaker’s showroom in Tokyo.

Toyota recalls 2.17 million vehicles in U.S.

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. recalled 2.17 million vehicles in the United States on Thursday to address accelerator pedals that could become entrapped in floor mats or jammed in driver’s side carpeting, prompting federal regulators to close its investigation into the embattled Japanese automaker.

The Transportation Department said it had reviewed more than 400,000 pages of Toyota documents to determine whether the scope of the company’s recalls for pedal entrapment was sufficient.

“As a result of the agency’s review, (the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) asked Toyota to recall these additional vehicles, and now that the company has done so, our investigation is closed,” said NHTSA administrator David Strickland.

Toyota has now recalled more than 14 million vehicles globally to fix gas pedals and other safety problems since 2009. U.S. regulators said earlier this month that electronic flaws were not to blame for reports of sudden, unintended acceleration. The company paid the U.S. government a record \$48.8 million in fines for its handling of three recalls. The world’s No. 1 auto company said more than half of the vehicles under recall were being added to a massive 2009 recall that fixed gas pedals getting trapped in the floor mat. The automaker said it would add three models to the 2009 pedal entrapment recall: about 600,000 4Runner SUVs from the 2003-2009 model years; 761,000 RAV4 compact SUVs from the 2006-2010 model years; and 17,000 Lexus LX 570s from the 2008-2011 model years.

The recall also includes 372,000 RX 330, RX 350 and RX 400H vehicles from the 2004 through early 2007 model years and 397,000 2004-2006 Toyota Highlander SUVs and hybrid versions to replace floor carpet covering and retention clips on the driver’s side that could interfere with the accelerator pedal arm. Toyota also recalled 20,000 2006 through early 2007 GS 300 and GS 350 all-wheel drive vehicles to change the shape of a plastic pad embedded in the driver’s side floor carpet that could cause pedal interference.

Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons said the company was unaware of any accidents or injuries related to the new recalls.□



Oil prices fall as Libya production fears ease

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices dropped Thursday for the first time in nine days after the International Energy Agency said the rebellion in Libya may have cut oil production less than originally feared.

The International Energy Agency said that the violent uprising in Libya has forced oil companies to idle between 500,000 and 750,000 barrels per day of production, or less than 1 percent of global daily oil consumption. That’s roughly half of what Italy’s Eni, Libya’s largest oil producer, estimated earlier Thursday.

IEA also said it can make up for any lost shipments from Libya by tapping into large surpluses held by member countries, which include the U.S., the United Kingdom, France and Germany. Altogether, member nations hold 1.6 billion barrels of emergency oil supplies, or enough crude to supply the group for 145 days.

IEA said it is in close contact with OPEC as well. Saudi Arabia, the most important member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said that it would increase production to make up for any shortfalls due to



Traders work the crude oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 in New York. The clashes in Libya sent oil up to nearly \$100 a barrel Thursday. Traders are worried the revolt could threaten Libya’s oil production and spread to other countries in the region, such as oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press

unrest in Libya, if necessary. The Saudis currently produce about 8.5 million barrels of oil a day and have the capacity to produce more than 12 million barrels a day. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for April delivery fell 82 cents to settle at \$97.28 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract climbed as high as \$103.41 per barrel earlier in the day.

After soaring 18 percent since Feb. 15 as anti-government protests swept through some countries in North Africa and the Middle East, Thursday’s drop suggests that traders “are starting to recognize that prices have become

overextended,” said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. The recent surge in oil, called the “fear premium” by energy traders, will flow through energy markets and could push retail gasoline prices as much as 30 to 40 cents higher than previously expected, experts said.

Oil and gasoline prices will likely hold at elevated levels as long as Libya’s future remains uncertain, said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research.

Prices should fall again once order is re-established. Libya relies on oil revenues and it will need to keep

operations running no matter who is in charge, he said.

“It doesn’t look like there’s any real damage to Libya’s oil fields,” Lynch said. “So once there’s a government in place everything could get back up and running within a few weeks.”

The Energy Information Administration said Thursday that oil supplies in the U.S. grew last week by 800,000 barrels.

That’s less than analysts expected, but supplies are still well above average for this time of year. Gasoline supplies fell by 2.8 million barrels last week.

“It doesn’t matter what the supply is here,” analyst and trader Stephen Schork said. “America is in competition with Europe and Asia and everywhere else for oil. And when there’s a shortage somewhere, it pushes prices everywhere else.”

In other Nymex trading in March contracts, heating oil rose 2.34 cents to settle at \$2.8932 per gallon and gasoline added 0.72 cent to settle at \$2.8749 per gallon. Natural gas lost 6.4 cents to settle at \$3.872 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude added 11 cents to settle at \$111.36 on the ICE Futures exchange.□



In this photo taken on Jan. 27, 2011, a home for sale is in Mount Lebanon, Pa. Freddie Mac said Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage slipped to 5 percent from 5.05 percent last week. It hit a 40-year low of 4.17 percent in November.

Associated Press

Freddie Mac posts \$1.7B loss for Q4

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government-controlled mortgage buyer Freddie Mac managed a narrower loss of \$1.7 billion for the October-December quarter of last year. But it has asked for an additional \$500 million in federal aid — up from the \$100 million it sought in the previous quarter.

Freddie Mac also posted a \$19.8 billion loss for all of 2010. The government rescued Freddie Mac and sibling company Fannie Mae in September 2008 to cover their losses on soured mortgage loans. It estimates the bailouts will cost taxpayers as much as \$259 billion.

Freddie Mac’s October-December loss attributable to common stockholders works out to 53 cents a share. It takes into account \$1.6 billion in dividend payments to the government. It compares with a loss of \$7.8 billion, or \$2.39 a share, in the fourth quarter of 2009.

The company said the recovery of the housing market is still fragile.

“As we begin 2011, the housing recovering remains vulnerable to high levels of unemployment, delinquencies and foreclosures,” Chief Executive Charles Haldeman said in a statement. “We expect national home prices to decline this year as housing will continue to take some time to recover.”

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own or guarantee about half of all mortgages in the U.S., or nearly 31 million home loans worth more than \$5 trillion. Along with other federal agencies, they played some part in almost 90 percent of new mortgages over the past year.

Fannie and Freddie buy home loans from banks and other lenders, package them into bonds with a guarantee against default and sell them to investors around the world.

The government’s estimated cost of bailing out the mortgage giants far exceeds the \$132.3 billion they have received from taxpayers so far. That would make theirs the costliest bailout of the financial crisis.

The two have been hit by massive losses on risky mortgages purchased from 2005 through 2008. The companies have tightened their lending standards after those loans started to go bad. Default rates on new loans are far lower.

The Obama administration unveiled a plan earlier this month to slowly dissolve the two mortgage giants. The aim is to shrink the government’s role in the mortgage system. The proposal would remake decades of federal policy aimed at getting Americans to buy homes and probably would make home loans more expensive.□

Japan’s consumer prices fall for 23rd month

TOKYO (AP) — Consumer prices in Japan went south for the 23rd straight month in January as deflation kept its hold on the economy.

But the pace of decline slowed for the fourth consecutive month because of the recent upward march of food and fuel prices worldwide.

The country’s core consumer price index, which excludes fresh food, slipped 0.2 percent from a year earlier, the government said Friday.

The result is a tad better than Kyodo news agency’s average market forecast for a 0.3 percent fall.

Deflation is one of the key problems facing Japan’s economy, which has been struggling to keep its recovery on track.

While lower prices boost individual purchasing power, they are usually bad for the broader economy. It eats into corporate profits and can lead to job and wage declines. It also means that even at zero, real interest rates are too high. In a speech earlier this month, Japan’s central bank governor said that the country’s extended deflation since the late 1990s stems from the long-term downtrend in Japan’s economic growth potential.

“When the growth rate continues to decline for a protracted period, people’s expectations for future income growth are reduced, and firms and households restrain their spending,” Bank of Japan Gov. Masaaki Shirakawa explained.

The central bank has set its key interest rate at virtually zero and pledges to maintain its easy monetary policy until deflation disappears. It says the core CPI should begin rising soon and forecasts a 0.3 percent uptick in the fiscal year through March 2012.

That’s not necessarily a good thing if a rise is mainly the result of higher raw material costs instead of better wages.□

*In California on eBay***Bidding hot in Justin Bieber hair auction**

LOS ANGELES – A single lock of Justin Bieber's newly-shorn hair is being auctioned off for charity and bids had reached \$6,700 on eBay.

The 16 year-old Canadian pop idol cut his trademark floppy hair earlier this week, and presented one of the locks to TV talk show host Ellen DeGeneres. "I'm giving pieces of it to different people," Bieber told DeGeneres.

"We're doing something special. We want you to donate it to whatever charity you want." DeGeneres put the hair, placed in a plexiglass box signed by Bieber, up for auction with all the proceeds to benefit the California animal rescue organization The Gentle Barn. Bidding started at \$10 and quickly reached \$6,700. The auction will end on March 2. Bieber's hair stylist told People magazine that the "Baby" singer had been talking for months about cutting his hair and adopting a more mature look.

"Cutting your hair is just part of the evolution and growing process for anyone, and I think he was just ready," stylist Vanessa Price told the magazine. "We've been talking about it over the last 6 months or so more or less, it's definitely been in the works for a while." □

Lack of black Oscar nominees not a trend

NEW YORK – Whoopi Goldberg said Wednesday that the lack of black nominees in major categories of this year's Academy Awards doesn't reflect a trend in the film industry.

Speaking after hosting the opening of an exhibit of Oscar statues inside New York's Grand Central Terminal, Goldberg underscored that five black actors have won



Academy Awards since 2002. "I don't know how it gets better," she said after posing for pictures. "I think we're all right."

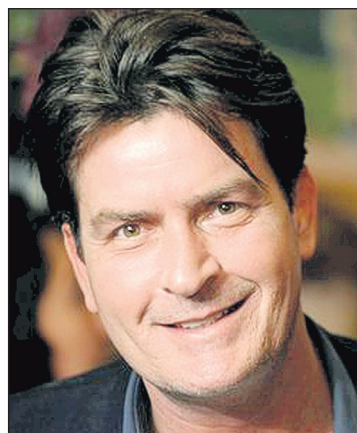
Goldberg recently said on her show "The View" that she was upset about an article in The New York Times citing the lack of black nominees this year because it didn't mention her supporting actress Oscar for 1990's "Ghost."

The Times said she misread the story and that it was not meant to be a comprehensive list of all actors who had won Oscars. Goldberg later apologized for calling the reporting sloppy.

She tried to clarify her comments about the story Wednesday, saying it was inaccurate to think there's "something wrong" with the way blacks are represented at the Oscars.

She said strides have been made since 1939 when Hattie McDaniel won for best supporting actress, becoming the first black awarded an Oscar.

"This idea that there's something wrong, something missing, seemed very inaccurate to me. And it was," she said. "And there are a lot of people in that small little world of black Oscar folks. And, yeah. If you're going to talk about it, then talk about it. Don't sort of talk around it. That was my point." □

Charlie Sheen back to 'Two and a Half Men'

LOS ANGELES – Charlie Sheen is returning to work, putting the top-rated TV comedy "Two and a Half Men" back into production. Spokesman Stan Rosenfield

said Sheen plans to be on the set Tuesday. Production will begin the day before, with taping set to resume March 4, series producer Warner Bros.

Television said. Four episodes are expected to be completed for this season, the studio said. That would leave the series four short of the 24 episodes that were planned.

The CBS comedy went on hiatus last month after Sheen sought rehab for undisclosed reasons after a recent tumultuous period in his checkered life, including three hospitalizations in three months. □

*In the UK***Catherine Zeta-Jones receives royal honor**

LONDON – Hollywood actress Catherine Zeta-Jones has received a royal honor from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace.

The Swansea, Wales-born actress became a Commander of the Order of the British Empire at the ceremony Thursday, where she was accompanied by husband Michael Douglas and their two children Carys and Dylan. Zeta-Jones, 41, said she was "very emotional and rather nervous" to receive the honor, which was given for her services to the film industry and her charity efforts.

She said "it was worth (it) to have Michael in good health to be able to enjoy it with me."



Douglas has been fighting throat cancer.

Zeta-Jones said Prince Charles had expressed his sympathy and was "happy to hear" that Douglas was recovering. □

*In Wales***Prince William, Kate christen new lifeboat**

TREARDDUR BAY, Wales – It was only a lifeboat yet the occasion gave hundreds of people a chance to cheer as Prince William and fiancée Kate Middleton made an official visit to Wales to dedicate the new boat. In a ceremony in Anglesey, Wales, the prince made a short statement asking that all those who used the boat be blessed, and then Middleton, with a big smile, poured champagne over the lifeboat. "I do the talking, she does the fun bit," William joked. The champagne bottle was not broken over the boat, as is traditional, because the lifeboat was an inflatable and it would not have been easy to crack a bottle on its bow. Middleton looked elegant and comfortable in her new role as a princess-to-be. She wore a three-quarter length tailored beige coat designed by British designer Katherine Hooker, and had her long hair swept back and topped by a chic feathery hat.

The hat was adorned with a badge of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, an infantry regiment of the British army.

Prince William named the Trearddur Bay Lifeboat Station's new boat the "Hereford Endeavour" at the ceremony 300 miles (485 kilometers) northwest of London.

He and Middleton joined the crowd in singing "God Save the Queen," followed by the Welsh national anthem.

The prince, a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot at a Royal Air Force base in Wales, then stood by his fiancée as both chatted with local dignitaries and members of the public. The couple, who are based in Wales, wanted to have a royal visit here to give back to the community, a palace spokeswoman said.

Royal fan Colin Edwards, 70, met the couple and gave them two gifts: a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II and another of the late Princess Diana with a young William and his brother Harry. "Seeing this crowd here today has brought back many memories for me because I followed Diana for many years and there was always a vast crowd," Edwards said. □

'The King's Speech' will rob 'The Social Network' at Oscars



Here's a bit of heresy from a film critic: I've never cared much about the Academy Awards. Over the span of a 30-year career writing about movies, I've rattled on about Oscar, but seldom with a major rooting interest.

Why is that, you ask?

Glad you brought it up. The Academy Awards basically provide a way for Hollywood to assure the public that it's doing exceptional work. To which I (and you) should say, "We'll be the judges of that."

Besides, we've already had a slew of critics' association awards, the Golden Globes and the various guild awards (directors, writers, cinematographers, etc.). By the time Oscar rolls around, it can feel as if we're walking through an orchard where all the apples have been picked.

OK, so the biggest apples still hang from the tree, but you know what I'm saying: Amid so much TV coverage, journalism and end-of-the-year hype, Oscar can feel almost anti-climactic.

Nonetheless, critics face an annual ritual in which they dutifully predict the winners in major categories, so I'll oblige by following suit, mostly as a way of reminding you that the Oscar ceremonies are coming up this Sunday. And let me add one note about predictions: I sincerely hope I'm wrong in several categories; I'd rather be surprised than right as Hollywood plods through what sometimes feels like an interminable orgy of self-congratulation. □

Making it 21+

MTV taking spring break to Sin City

LAS VEGAS — The cable network known for its strong teen following is taking the college tradition of spring break and making it an adults-only affair in Sin City.

MTV is bringing its raucous annual special Spring Break to Las Vegas, with five days of parties and concerts featuring up-and-coming music acts and personalities from the network's reality shows. It's the first time the network has filmed the special in Las Vegas, changing the dynamic from the usual beaches of Florida or Mexico to the pool of the Palms Casino Resort near the Las Vegas Strip.

For the network, the move changes up the vibe of a yearly celebration that started in 1986. For the Palms, the show brings midweek customers during a time that Las Vegas is welcoming any visitors willing to spend money partying and gambling.

But given gambling and tight state regulations, college students can expect their underage friends to have a tough time getting into the party should they choose to try.

"Everyone's going to be 21 that will be at the pool," said George Maloof, owner of the



Palms. "We'll make sure of that, have plenty of security."

"It'll be just like what we've always done, which is having respect for obviously our license," he said.

College kids have long sought destinations with relaxed laws for spring break because they often don't turn 21 until their junior or senior year in school. Mexico, for example, has a drinking age of 18, making places like Cancun and Rosarito Beach popular when schools take their mid-term breaks.

Even though casinos market only to those 21 and older,

MTV's Spring Break still fits with the Palms, Maloof said.

"With our brand, it's a natural fit. We've always attracted the younger crowd and we've always been on the cutting edge of culture," he said.

Maloof and the Palms played host to MTV's "The Real World" in 2002, putting up seven residents all over 21 in a suite at the resort that's still rentable today.

Eric Conte, senior vice president of programming at MTV, said he doesn't think that restricting the festivities to only drinking-age adults will hurt the party or make students not want to come.

"We're also doing parties around some of our biggest franchises on MTV at some of the suites there at the Palms," he said. "We think just the overall excitement in the town is really beneficial and is helping us out so far."

MGM Resorts International, the casino operator that runs 10 properties on the Las Vegas Strip, is expecting as much as a 20 percent increase in spring break travelers, including college students and families with children taking a break from school, Chief Marketing Officer Bill Hornbuckle said. □

John Leguizamo's new show dishes Hollywood dirt



NEW YORK — John Leguizamo is trying to put the pieces of his life together.

The 46-year-old comedian is pacing the stage of the Lyceum Theatre, massaging the final touches on his new one-man show, "Ghetto Clown," as the creative team watches from the audience, trying to keep up with his mile-a-minute thoughts. "Let's take it from the slide in the sand," he tells them.

A photo then flashes on a huge projection screen behind the comedian. It's a picture of Leguizamo's two kids smiling broadly, their faces the only thing visible from beneath a mound of playground sand.

"I had to bury them because they're hyper like me and otherwise I wouldn't get anything done," Leguizamo jokes.

Then he falters. "Line!" he calls out.

From the audience comes the next bit of dialogue: "My son."

"My son was watching 'Ace Ventura' one night," Leguizamo continues.

And he's off and running again.

This is Leguizamo's fifth one-man show and it explores his career his acting choices, his professional frustrations and his work alongside Hollywood stars. He jokes that it is "A Portrait of a Middle-Aged Man as an Artist."

"It's almost like a novel what you can do in a one-man show. It's heightened reality. It's haiku, in a way," he says, relaxing after rehearsals with a glass of white wine. "I have to say a lot more in less time and in less ways because you can't really talk the regular way you talk. It just doesn't play."

The new show follows Leguizamo's confessional, expletive-laden and almost painfully honest previous work 1991's "Mambo Mouth," 1993's "Spic-O-Rama," 1998's "Freak," and 2001's "Sexaholix a Love Story." The first won an Obie Award, the second a Drama Desk Award and the latter two were on

Broadway. "Freak" earned Tony Award nominations for best actor and best play, and "Sexaholix" a Tony nomination as a special theatrical event. All four shows were shown on cable TV and "Spic-O-Rama" won four cable ACE awards.

"The writing is never easy," he says. "I understand structure better than I did when I was 26, when I first did my show. I understand themes and premise and all that stuff. I understand the mechanics so much better than I ever have. But it doesn't make it easier.

None of that helps. You have to toil like a Chilean miner."

After having already dealt with his childhood, his family and his sex life, Leguizamo decided the new show should deal with his professional ups and downs, which have included highlights such as his TV show "House of Buggin'" to such movies as "Carlito's Way," "Casualties of War" and "Moulin R-ouge." □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Prostate cancer

Spikes in PSA a poor predictor



CHICAGO – A sudden spike in blood levels of prostate specific antigen, or PSA, is not an accurate way to predict prostate cancer, and testing for such changes can lead to overtreatment, U.S. researchers said on Thursday. Several groups including the National Cancer Center Network and the American Urological Association recommend that men with a spike in PSA known as high PSA velocity get a biopsy for prostate cancer, even if there are no other indicators that cancer may exist.

“We have found no evidence to support the recommendation that men with a high PSA velocity should be biopsied

in the absence of other indications,” said Andrew Vickers of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, whose study appears in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. Those other indications could

U.S. provides STD tests for elderly

WASHINGTON— Health officials are considering including tests for sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis and hepatitis B for the elderly and disabled covered under Medicare.

The national health insurance program, which already pays for HIV tests, said that it was considering adding the additional STD exams as part

be an elevated total PSA level or a positive digital rectal exam, he said.

“In other words, if a man’s PSA has risen rapidly in recent years, there is no cause for concern if his total PSA level is still low and his clinical exam is normal,” Vickers said in a statement.

Prostate cancer kills about 250,000 men a year globally and is the second most common cause of cancer death in men in the United States, after lung cancer.

Blood tests that measure overall levels of PSA have reduced prostate cancer-related deaths, but PSA testing identifies many slow-growing cancers that may never need treatment. □

of an initiative to cover more preventive care.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) officials are expected to announce a draft decision by August 24. Americans are living longer, and Medicare’s review comes as researchers find more older Americans remaining sexually active. Most sexually transmitted infection tests under consideration are aimed at people at high risk for such diseases. Most are for women and some specifically for pregnant women, who are included in Medicare’s disabled beneficiaries. □

Hazardous for health?

Big Fallout behind Brazilian Blowout



RIO DE JANEIRO – Erlice de Oliveira juggles two kids, a full-time job, a long commute and really resents the time it takes to tame her curly hair every morning.

She had heard of a hair smoothing treatment that worked well but used potentially dangerous chemicals. Still, all her friends were talking about it and Hollywood celebrities endorsed it. She decided to check it out.

“It looks like I just walked out of the salon,” the secretary said. “My life is rushed; I can’t go to the salon all the time. This is easy and practical.” Known as the Brazilian Blowout in the United States, the treatment surfaced around 2005 in Brazil, where a combination of high humidity and a largely mixed-race, curly haired population made for a nation of eager customers. It soon spread throughout North America and Europe.

Available in several brands, the process often contains varying levels of formaldehyde, which has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a probable carcinogen. According to complaints, it has made some stylists cough and reddened the eyes of clients.

The flap has rattled the beauty world: Canadian authorities

issued a warning about possible health hazards; France pulled products with high levels of formaldehyde; the Oregon occupational health agency tested 100 samples and found many labeled “formaldehyde free” that had more than the 0.1 percent of the chemical allowed in U.S. products.

A later air sample test of salons in Oregon found levels of formaldehyde complied with safety standards, but Michael Wood, who heads the state’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said in a statement, “It is clear that the levels are high enough to cause concern.”

Repeated e-mails and phone calls to the Los Angeles office handling public relations for the Brazilian Blowout brand were not returned. In a November news release, the company underscored the air sample tests from Oregon that found “formaldehyde exposure levels safely below OSHA’s Action Level.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is still investigating whether the ingredients cause health problems. The California attorney general, meantime, has filed a lawsuit alleging the Brazilian Blowout brand has high levels of formaldehyde despite claiming otherwise on its website and other advertising. □

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[illegible]

Hallan tumba de noble pre incaico en Cusco

LIMA (AP) - Un equipo de arqueólogos descubrió la tumba intacta de un gobernante de una importante cultura anterior a los incas, sepultado con adornos de oro y plata, en una zona de selva del Cusco.

El hallazgo del que ha sido denominado “Señor Vilcas” y que según su iconografía y estilo pertenece a la cultura Wari, se realizó en la región de Vilcabamba, que fue el último refugio de los incas que resistían la conquista española. Esto ha causado asombro entre los arqueólogos peruanos pues hasta ahora se desconocía que a ese territorio de selva hubieran llegado los Wari, que se desarrollaron en los andes centrales entre los años 600 y 1.200 después de Cristo. “Este hallazgo está a la altura del Señor de Sipán”, afirmó el Director del Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC) de Cusco, Juan Julio García, refiriéndose al descubrimiento de la tumba de un dignatario hallado en 1986 en el departamento norteño de Lambayeque.

“Cambiará parte de la historia y de la zona”, dijo García el miércoles en la noche, durante la presentación a la prensa en Cusco de los objetos



En esta fotografía divulgada por la agencia de noticias estatal de Perú Andina, piezas de oro y plata de un noble pre incaico son exhibidos en el Instituto Nacional de Cultura de Cuzco, Perú, el miércoles 23 de febrero del 2011. (AP Foto/Percy Hurtado, Andina Agency)

hallados. En el acto estuvo la Directora General del Fondo de Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia, y la Cultura (UNESCO) Irina Bokova, quien realiza una visita en Perú.

Las noticias sobre el hallazgo fueron recibidas con cierto escepticismo por expertos internacionales como Justin Jennings, curador asociado

del Departamento de Culturas del Mundo del Museo Real de Ontario, en Canadá.

“Tenemos que ser claros. Se trata de alguien que esta vestido con un cierto estilo, posiblemente desarrollado en

Ayacucho por personas que vivían en la ciudad de Wari, pero eso no necesariamente significa que aquella persona sea un ‘diplomático’ o gobernante de ese Estado”, expresó Jennings el jueves en

conversación telefónica con AP.

“Este hallazgo nos está ayudando, pero no podemos realmente decir mucho acerca del imperio wari y su relación con los incas”, añadió.

Los primeros indicios del entierro fueron localizados en julio del 2010 en el sector conocido como Espiritupampa, ubicado en la provincia de La Convención en la selva de Cusco, a unos 460 kilómetros al sudeste de Lima, pero es recién que se ha hecho público su descubrimiento.

Se trata del primer gobernante hallado en esa región, pues anteriormente solo se habían encontrado tumbas de dignatarios preincas en la costa norte.

Entre los objetos exhibidos se encuentran un pectoral de plata en forma de “Y”, dos brazos laterales con figuras de felinos, una máscara de plata con una figura antropomorfa, dos brazaletes de oro, dos báculos de madera, 234 láminas de plata, además de cerámicas. □

Costa Rica crea comisión contra racismo

SAN JOSE (AP) - Costa Rica comisionó el jueves a dos políticos afrodescendientes para luchar contra el racismo en el país, informó el jueves el canciller René Castro.

“Esto busca reafirmar la importancia de la plena participación libre y en igualdad de condiciones de los afrodescendientes en todos los aspectos de la vida política, económica, social, y cultural en todos los países de las Américas”, explicó Castro, refiriéndose a que Naciones Unidas designó el 2011 como el año de los afrodescendientes.

El canciller juramentó a los ex diputados Epsy Campbell y Walter Robinson como miembros de la Comisión

Nacional Afrocostarricense, aunque reconoció que el estado también tiene pendiente el reconocimiento de “otras etnias que aún no tenemos claramente identificadas”.

Según el censo de población del 2000, en el país viven casi 73.000 afrodescendientes y el plan es mejorar y actualizar esos datos en el censo que se aplicará este año de forma que cada costarricense defina “si se considera blanco o afrodescendiente o chino o mestizo”, explicó Campbell. Las acciones de la comisión se centrarán en las provincias costarricenses de Guanacaste, al norte, y la caribeña de Limón, donde Castro dijo, ha existido un racismo “oculto” que ha causado que

sean zonas de alta pobreza a pesar de ser, por otro lado, “semilleros de deportistas” entre los muchos aportes que brindan ambas zonas al resto del país.

Como parte de la agenda de la comisión, también se promoverá junto a Belice la aprobación en el seno de la Organización de Estados Americanos de una convención regional contra el racismo.

“Vamos a trabajar hombro a hombro para llevar la propuesta ante la OEA... iniciaremos en pocas semanas con un proceso de comunicación con otras naciones. Brasil ya ha expresado gran interés”, comentó el jefe de la diplomacia. □

Presidente de Ecuador visitará Colombia

BOGOTA (AP) - El presidente de Ecuador Rafael Correa visitará Colombia del 3 al 5 de mayo, informaron el jueves los cancilleres de ambos países reunidos en Bogotá.

El canciller ecuatoriano Ricardo Patiño, de visita de un día en Bogotá, junto a su colega anfitriona María Angela Holguín comunicaron la visita de Correa a Bogotá y luego irá al balneario de Cartagena, en la costa Caribe del país. Patiño dijo también que aún esperan luz verde de Bogotá para la posible venta de unas 40.000 toneladas de arroz a Colombia. “Hemos venido a ofrecer este arroz ecuatoriano a Colombia... (pero) todavía no tenemos una respuesta definitiva”, dijo Patiño.

“Si hay un déficit en la oferta colombiana, pues nosotros nos sentiríamos muy contentos de poder cubrir ese déficit desde el Ecuador y eso también afianza las relaciones entre los dos países”, añadió. Holguín dijo que el Ministerio de Agricultura ha autorizado la importación de esas 40.000 toneladas de arroz de países de la Comunidad Andina y están por decidir sobre cantidades y origen del país. □

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